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THURSDAY, JANUARY 24TH, 2013

2013 VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS SEE OUR 12-PAGE PULL-OUT INSIDE

VALE OF GLAMORGAN



Local woman's jet ski dash to rescue people trapped in peninsula bush fire

A LOCAL woman has been involved in a dramatic operation - to help people in Tasmania threatened by bush fires.

Leanne Martlew (27) a surf-lifesaver from Fonmon, who is on an exchange visit to Australia, jet-skied 70 kilometres with a colleague to take supplies to

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

people trapped on a peninsula by local fires.

Earlier this month the Tasmanian authorities were fighting dozens of fires that had broken out in the unusually hot weather.

Her father Nigel, who owns Hawthorn Travel in Barry, told The GEM: "Leanne has been in

Tasmania since November on an exchange visit between Surf Life Saving Great Britain and Surf Life Saving Australia.

"Her job is to look after the lifeguards on the beaches of Tasmania and make sure the beaches are manned. It is quite a responsible role.

"Earlier this month she had to help people threatened by fires on a peninsula. She and a colleague dived with death by going on their jet skis 70km up the coast through heavy surf.

"They took supplies such as water and food items to help the people until boats arrived to evacuate them.

"When she rang us (Nigel and Leanne's mum Denise) she said: 'You won't believe what

we have done. She told us what had happened and added: 'This is real life-saving!'. She was on a high."

Leanne, a former pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive and Llantwit Comprehensive, has been involved with surf life saving clubs in the Vale since she was in primary school. She started off at the age of nine with Rhose Surf Life Saving Club and also attended Jackson's Bay Surf Life Saving Club.

Denise said she was "very proud" of her daughter's actions, but added that she had been proud of her since she was born!

Leanne has competed in surf life saving events all over the world. In 2002, Nigel took her to Daytona, America.

(Continued on page 5)

BARRY BATTLES THE SNOW, BUT THE CHILDREN HAVE FUN!



Cemetery Approach was transformed into a winter wonderland!

BARRY woke to a wintry, white blanket of snow on Friday, January 18, after five inches of snow fell in the space of a few hours in the early hours of the morning, writes Tim Chapman.

Gritting trucks and snow ploughs worked hard to keep main roads open as snow

continued to fall until 2pm.

All the junior schools were closed in the town, and senior schools in Barry and Penarth were only open to those who happened to have scheduled exams.

The Vale Council works manager, Colin Smith, said: "Regrettably, although we

work hard to keep our main roads open, it is the side roads and pavements that prevent staff walking and carrying heavy loads safely and make it impossible for us to do our job.

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 5)

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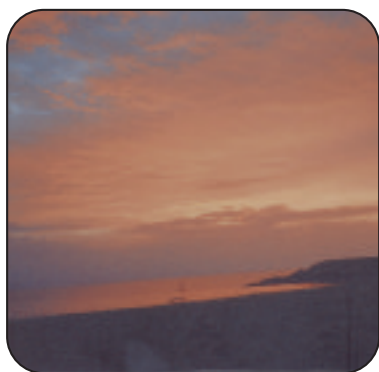
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Nell's Point sunset

GEM readers have been sending in their images, illustrating the beauty of the Vale.

This week's offering is by Idris Michael of Barry, and was taken from Nell's Point in the direction of Friar's Point, showing the dramatic, orange sunset.

Heritage centre can revive Barry

THROUGH the snow, I watched the dismantling of the last remaining ride at Barry Island Pleasure Park with a sense of sadness and loss.

Established over a century ago, the Barry Island Pleasure Park provided a major attraction to the Island. I still remember my first visit to it as a tourist back in the 1970s.

Its sad demise over the last few years could be seen as a parallel to the state of the Island itself.

As caretaker chair of the Vale Heritage Centre Coalition (VHCC), I can't help wondering if any part of this once iconic Barry Island landmark has been safely put aside for any future Glamorgan county Heritage Centre?

I wonder the same about Barry's former 100-year-old cinema.

The proposal suggested a hub and spoke concept, in which the centre would be the hub, directing heritage tourists to other heritage attractions across the county, such as Barry's Glamorgan

War-time Heritage Centre, and the heritage transport at the Cardiff Transport Preservation Society.

With the decline in weather throughout the summer, a Barry Island-based Glamorgan county Heritage Centre would help to achieve some of the regeneration board's goals, by increasing the number of attractions and reasons to visit, attract more people to the Island by extending the offer, and extend the time of visits by providing an all year-all-weather attraction.

The Vale Council commissioned consultants to carry out a feasibility study into the possible locations for a facility, the results of which were made public in July 2011; so much of the groundwork has already been carried out.

VHCC is awaiting a Freedom of Information request to clarify the costs of this consultancy, and the progress that has been made since.

Barry Island and the Vale could certainly benefit from a slice of the estimated £7.3 billion that is spent on heritage tourism in the UK, according to Welsh Government figures.

A Barry Island-based Glamorgan county Heritage Centre would also help the town to benefit, rather than lose from its close proximity to Cardiff.

Ade Pitman,
Barry.

Readers' Letters

IMPORTANT! We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!

We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Grateful for backing from Tourism Project

IAM writing in response to an article you printed on January 10 regarding a campsite owner's attack on the Vale Council Tourism Project.

I am a Vale business owner myself, and have been lucky enough in the past, along with Mark Edwards of Happy Jakes, to be the recipient of a grant under the Vale Council Tourism Project. I know from my experience that this grant funding has allowed me to trial an experience that under the current economic climate I would not otherwise have been able to do.

We did a trial on low impact paintball, which is a completely revolutionary type of paintball, using a lighter smaller paint pellet, a lighter gun with a smaller air bottle, as less velocity is needed to propel the smaller pellet; this has allowed us to roll out paintball to a completely new age range of eight to 11-year-olds.

It is also fantastic fun for ladies, who otherwise would not play paintball, and has allowed us to capitalise on the 'Hen Party' element which we have never been able to do before.

With the downturn in most tourism businesses

'Shining vision of a Project for Mammon'

WHILE it is hard not to sympathise with Mr Mark Edwards in his efforts to remain in business, despite the heavy competition from the Creative Rural Communities (CRC) the fact is that he is faced with an entirely novel and possibly unique form of enterprise.

Away goes the tiresome, time-and-money-consuming need to consult local views.

With this model, projects become a fait accompli and public discussion is only invited once the plan has been implemented.

As it is all funded by EU and Welsh Government money, there is no need to worry about such petty items as 'fair competition' and straightforward accounting.

With the scale of success reported by the CRC, perhaps the Welsh Assembly and the Vale Council should invite the CRC to take over the running of Cardiff Airport?

Using the method which proved so effective in the execution of the 'Perfect Pitch' operation, CRC might prefer to set up a rival airport, revitalising, say, the facilities at Llandow – to create a 'hub' through which visitors from all corners of the globe could be tempted into the Vale: to admire the beauties of the Heritage Coast – and to part with the contents of their wal-

lets before leaving? One can imagine their enjoying a welcome ranging from Welsh cakes and half a bottle of Welsh 'bubbly' at one of the many bijou B & Bs, to a red carpet arrival at the 84-floor St Brides 'Village Inn' or the luxury suite at the 102-storey 'St Illtyd's Hotel' outside Llantwit Major.

For entertainment, the name of Donald Trump springs inevitably to mind. Surely the CRC would not hesitate to invite him to become a partner in this mighty Vale enterprise?

One can imagine all those tiresome hedgerows and copses disappearing under the blade of the bulldozer as the new 'super Vale Coast Golf Links' takes shape.

To guarantee the project's 'green credentials', visitor 'waste' from hotels and boarding houses could be recycled as methane gas to be used in a re-modelled Aberthaw power station.

The lights would shine out across the water from this magnificent Project for Mammon – er – this great Employment and Income Opportunity – to the nightly wonderment of the inhabitants of Exmoor.

And, in the unlikely event that some Vale residents grew weary of so much exciting activity, they could make use of the 'old' Cardiff Airport to escape to Europe or America – or anywhere...

Michael Day-Thompson, Monkknash

under the current economic climate, I would not have had the available funds to allow me to test this new market without the expertise, help and part funding from Creative Rural Communities.

I believe that a lot of local businesses have been in the same situation, without sufficient funding to trial a new concept, so that in the long term they can invest and increase employment for the area. It is so entrepreneurial of the council to be leaders in this field.

In defence of Creative Rural Communities and the article you have published, having now rolled out the low impact paintball I can confirm that in the last 12 months, this part of my paintball business alone has generated for local people over 300 part time shifts, has guaranteed one full time member of staff's employment and, without doubt, has impacted on the surrounding Cowbridge businesses.

Many of the parents travel some distance to visit us, and we always recommend local restaurants, pubs and shops for them to visit during the four hours the youngsters are playing paintball.

If it were not for the CRC Vale Council Tourism Project, I would not have been in a position to trial this new concept, and would not now be able to offer all this additional work to local people.

Along with a number of other recipients of grants, I was invited to the launch of the 'Perfect Pitch' – and must say I was very impressed with the set-up of the camp sites we saw, and the excellent facilities offered. Certainly not all sites had the plastic toilets, as per your article. As a camper myself, I must say I would have happily stayed in any of the sites trialed by Creative Rural Communities.

I think it is very short-sighted of one camp site owner, to suggest that a trial such as this was a total waste of council money; my understanding is that these sites were using 2012 as a sounding board to gain experience (just as I did) before going ahead with a full launch in 2013 (based on appropriate planning).

I also understand, from the presentation given to us at the launch, that many of the surrounding camp sites were fully booked during the Eisteddfod and very busy during the summer period; and this would have meant campers having to go outside the Vale of Glamorgan to obtain pitches for their tents.

Annette Chinn (Managing Director)
Taskforce Paintball Games
Cowbridge

Council tax benefit u-turn is welcome

THE Welsh Government u-turn on council tax benefit cuts, under Plaid Cymru pressure, is very welcome.

This would have affected 330,000 families in Wales who receive council tax benefits – Wales' most common form of social security.

However, it comes nine months after the Scottish Government reached the same conclusion that this was unfair on the most vulnerable in society.

What took Labour so long? This delay has meant a waste of taxpayers' money across Wales on preparations for a change which won't happen. The Welsh Government should now reimburse local councils

for the money spent on this.

As a councillor in the Vale of Glamorgan, I have twice asked questions in full council, to make others aware of the effect that this would have on the 11,000 families in the county who would have lost out, many of whom would have been hit by a double whammy with the real terms cuts to other benefits this April.

It is now up to the Welsh Government to establish the fairest way of dealing with unfair cuts being imposed upon us in Wales by a heartless Westminster Government.

I hope that they don't fail the people on council tax benefit once again.

Coun Ian Johnson,
Barry (Plaid Cymru)

War-time Spitfire: 'different crash'

FURTHER to my recent enquiry, I would like to thank both of your correspondents who wrote in regarding a Spitfire crash.

Unfortunately, this was not the crash to which I refer. Following my letter in The GEM, I was contacted by a friend of very long standing, Mrs Marjorie Evans of Colwynon.

As I have mentioned, before, she had actually lived in the detached house adjacent to the field, and although not in occupation at that time, knew of the incident.

Within minutes, I was speaking to a Mr Thomas, an elderly, but very fit gentleman – who, almost unbelievably, as a young man was driving a tractor in an adjacent field!

He told me that he then drove to the crash

site, fearing the worst and was astonished to find the shaken, but unharmed pilot, sitting on a wing, smoking a pipe!

When asked if he was hurt in any way, the pilot replied: "No, I'm OK, Taff" (an Englishman!) Mr Thomas then recounted the many problems the RAF recovery team had in getting their aircraft transporter into and out of the field.

I very much appreciate Marjorie and Mr Thomas contacting me so promptly, and if I could only discover the name of the pilot and his subsequent story, I would be, as they say, 'over the moon'.

Many thanks also to The GEM for publishing my enquiry. May you continue long in publishing your excellent newspaper.

Alun G Reed,
Bridgend.

'SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT'

I'M glad Dinas Powys Rotary Club enjoyed the talk on my 32 years in the RAF, but just in case my old colleagues think I'm claiming credit for jobs I didn't do, I think I need to correct a couple of inaccuracies in their report in last week's paper.

Far from commanding RAF Halton, I was an apprentice technician there, about as far in rank below the Station Commander as it is possible to be.

And I didn't retire from RAF St Athan. I spent two years there in

the early 90s, when I commanded the University of Wales Air Squadron, which taught students of the University of Wales to fly – it still does.

I retired from RAF Cranwell in 2005, as a group captain pilot commanding No 1 Elementary Flying Training School, responsible for, among other things, the first stage of flying training for the Army, Navy and RAF.

My wife and I so loved our time at St Athan that we chose to retire to the Vale, where we have lived contentedly for the last seven and a half years.

Ron Powell,
Barry Island.

SHARE YOUR VIEWS!

Let us know what you think about what is going on in the Vale - email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JANUARY 24)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
17 Thur	10.05	9.3	22.23	8.8
18 Fri	10.47	8.7	23.06	8.3
19 Sat	11.31	8.1	23.52	7.8
20 Sun			12.32	7.6
21 Mon	01.07	7.5	13.51	7.4
22 Tues	02.25	7.4	15.09	7.5
23 Wed	03.41	7.7	16.12	7.8
24 Thur	04.37	8.2	17.01	8.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Son pays tribute to local football legend Pete who founded Wolves legacy

Peter Saunders, who was a huge figure on the Barry football scene, has sadly passed away. Here his son Lee pays a loving tribute to him:

My father Peter 'Pete' Saunders, the founder of the Wolves legacy in the Barry football leagues, sadly passed away suddenly, aged 68, on Tuesday, January 15.

He founded Silver Star Wolves in 1979 to give players the chance to play, no matter how good or poor they were.

Over the years, the names of the sides may have changed, but all the teams still bore the Wolves name.

We have had Silver Star Wolves, Barry Wolves, Barry West End Wolves, Sully Sports Wolves – and still going very strong in the mini section is Dinas Powys Wolves, with nearly 40 boys and girls.

Peter would take the kids on memorable end-of-season trips to great football grounds, such as Anfield Road, White Hart Lane and Villa Park. He even took youngsters to Holland!

End-of-season presentations would always involve Cardiff City players and make the



young lads feel so special.

Cardiff City was his passion and Pete always supported them, having a season ticket from the 1960's. He followed his beloved Cardiff everywhere – even to Madrid to watch them in the European Cup.

Wolves enjoyed loads of success in the past 30 years and he has touched so many people's lives.

He will be sadly missed by so many people who have played for the Wolves over the years.

I took over the mantle in 1990 and carried on in the same vein – if you

want to play, turn up! Every year, the

Wolves teams in all age groups would travel to Oxford, to play in a huge five-a-side tournament during the 80s and 90s. Those memories will live long in the hearts of many people.

In the two photos you will see Pete presented with the new kit for the 1979 season, and a first team photo.

It's a very sad time for the family, and our wishes are that we celebrate his passing by giving Pete the send-off he deserves.

The funeral will take place tomorrow (Friday, January 25) at All Saints Church, 3.45pm, followed by cremation at Port Road. Then Wenvoe Golf Club will host the wake.

Could everyone please make the effort to wear football or rugby shirts, and would the ladies dress in bright colours.

All Saints family service

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a family service on Sunday, January 27 at 10am, on the theme of 'One Body – Many Parts'.

The worship will be suitable for all ages and refreshments are served after the service. All are welcome.

PANCAKES

To mark the beginning of Lent, All Saints Church is inviting everyone to a Pancake Lunch on Shrove Tuesday, February 12.

This is taking place on the Gallery inside the church, beginning at 12noon.

Come along and enjoy a choice of savoury and sweet pancakes plus tea/coffee for £6 (children £3).

There will also be stalls and a raffle. All welcome – proceeds for the church re-ordering project.

BELOW: Pete (right) with Jack Peck of Valspar Paints, who sponsored the first Silver Star Wolves.



Barry couple are contacted by 'Good Samaritan'

RIGHT: Mr and Mrs Johnson now know who helped him while he was trapped in his car, waiting for the emergency services to arrive.

by TIM CHAPMAN



A man from Barry who was cut out of his car which had flipped onto its side on Colcot Road, has been able to thank the Good Samaritan who talked him through the moments while he waited for the emergency services to arrive.

Two weeks ago, The GEM told the story of Mr Michael Johnson who had set off from home in his Renault Clio for an appointment at the University Hospital of Wales.

It had ended with the car on its side and Mr Johnson suspended in mid-air held in place by his seat belt!

Mr Johnson (73) and his wife Jeanette contacted The GEM to thank the mystery man who provided comfort to him by talking to him until the emergency services arrived and cut him out of the car.

Mr Johnson had told The GEM: "He asked me what my name was and I said 'Mike'. He said: 'Okay, Mike, we can't get you out straightaway, but I will stay with you until the emergency services arrive'."

"He kept talking to me and was very reassuring – a true Good Samaritan."

Mr Johnson is currently recuperating at his house at The Knap, under Mrs Johnson's supervision.

Last week, the mystery helper's wife contacted The GEM and said her husband would be delighted to let the Johnsons know who he was. He had been working nearby when the incident took place and was pleased to have been of help.

The GEM was delighted to pass the telephone number of the Good Samaritan on to Mr Johnson who was able to thank the couple personally.

The great news is that Mr Johnson is continuing to make a full recovery.

Tanks rumble through local rail station!

BARRY ISLAND Railway Station heard engines of a different sort on January 13, when the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre, in partnership with the South West Armoured Group, held a radio-controlled tank event.

Barry at War group chairman, Ade Pitman said: "The local radio-controlled tank group wanted to hold an event to educate the public about these model tanks and the real ones they represent, and the Heritage Centre seemed an ideal venue."

"With the centenary of the First World War approaching in 2014, the Barry at War group are keen to work with partners to ensure that Barry and the Vale have an appropriate display, where school children and visitors can see an example of life in a World War One trench."

"Our volunteers have been busy creating a prototype based on the one at the Imperial War Museum. Visitors can already use a 'trench-

periscope' to see a World War One battle taking place."

Barry Town Mayor, Les Sword made his first visit to the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre, to see the prototype.

He commented: "I was amazed to see the progress that Barry at War group had made on the heritage centre in the short time that they have been open."

"It was a real pleasure to meet one of the group's volunteers, who has donated the uniform that he wore in Afghanistan while serving with the Royal Welch Fusiliers."

The Heritage Centre will be open on the second Sunday of each month, and each day Barry Tourist Railway runs its trains.

The next large event will be the 'Meet the People of the Past' living-history event on Sunday, March 10.

The Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre will next be open on Sunday, February 10.

Contact: www.wartimeglamorgan.co.uk or telephone Ade Pitman on 07930 874161 for further information.

Beach clean

FRIENDS of Barry Beaches will hold their next monthly litter pick at Watchtower beach (the Knap) on Sunday, January 27 at 3pm.

Gloves and litter-picking equipment provided. All children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Get a taste for cricket!

IF you have a taste for cricket, join Barry Wanderers at Colcot Sports Centre, Colcot Road, for training on Sundays between 3-4pm, starting on January 27 (first session is free).

The club welcomes boys and girls between the ages of seven and 13.

For more details and information about the youth section, contact Mark Ellis, youth coach, on 07826 020707, or email barrywandererscc@hotmail.co.uk.

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Penarth park partly closed for new cycle path work

WORK has begun on a ramp to complete the cycleway and footpath in Dingle Park, Penarth, and the upper end of the Park could be closed until March.

The Vale Council started work on the scheme at the end of the 2010-11 year, with funding from the Welsh Government via the Vale Council.

"Further grant aid was given in 2011-12 to extend the cycleway through the park, but funding was insufficient to deal with the steep section at the end of the park. It is hoped that the proposed ramped section will aid both access through the park for cyclists, as well as use of the park itself by local residents," a council spokesperson said.

"The project is part of a wider scheme of cycleways in Penarth linked to the Pont y Werin over the River Ely, which opened in July 2010.

"Additional funding was secured from the

Welsh Government so that a number of links between the bridge and Penarth, Cogan and Llandough could be built and this project is just one element of that work.

"In the longer term, a new bridge at Dingle Road station is proposed, using funds raised from the Penarth Heights housing project.

"This project will also entail further work to improve the access route through the park to the proposed new bridge to ensure it is safe and convenient for cyclists and pedestrians alike.

"If given the go-ahead, this project is expected to take another two to three years."

RHOOSE BINGO

THE management committee at Rhose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhose, are holding another fundraising bingo afternoon on Saturday, January 26, at 2.30pm.

Fairtrade appeal to town's residents

RECENTLY, Barry Town Council passed a resolution supporting an application for Fairtrade status for the town of Barry.

Coun Rob Curtis who represents Gibbonsdown, has been asked by the council to co-ordinate the application process. He is appealing for the support of local residents and businesses to volunteer their time by joining the Barry Town Fairtrade steering group, which will hold its first meeting on Monday, February 18, at the Barry Town Council offices on Gladstone Road at 4pm.

Coun Curtis, who has been a strong supporter of the Fairtrade Foundation since its creation in 1992, said: "With the onset of the world economic collapse, the Fairtrade ideal is now needed more than ever before.

"Every time we shop we all have the power to create positive change for people and the environment throughout the



ABOVE:
Coun Rob Curtis is aiming to make Barry a Fairtrade Town.

world.
"By eating, drinking or wearing products with the Fairtrade mark we are making a positive change to the lives of millions of farm workers and their families in developing countries.

If any Barry-based businesses or residents would like to be part of the local Fairtrade steering group, please contact Coun Rob Curtis on 01446 736287 or contact Barry Town Council on 01446 738663.

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Welsh pork and leek sausage, lava bread fritter, 2 rashers of bacon, fried egg, beans, tomato, mushrooms, hash browns, black pudding

Upgrade to large - £6.00

- include an extra egg, sausage and rasher of bacon.

American Breakfast - £4.00

2 pancakes with maple syrup, 2 rashers of bacon, sausage, scrambled egg.

Upgrade to large - £5.50

- includes extra pancake, sausage and bacon rasher.

Skinny Breakfast - £4.00

2 rashers of grilled bacon, weightwatcher sausage, poached egg, beans, mushrooms.

Additional individual items from 50 pence.

£1 delivery charge will apply to all orders

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GRITTERS GO INTO ACTION TO COMBAT SNOWY CONDITIONS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

He continued: "Rest assured that all the resources which are used for waste management services will be diverted to focus on gritting and clearing routes and assisting with essential social services. Many thanks to our residents for their support."

Many people busied themselves by dispensing grit from their local bins to help to get cars moving. There are 200 grit bins strategically positioned throughout the Vale and they had been filled up by the council

in preparation for precisely the sort of conditions that arrived just before the weekend.

Traffic was patchy in Barry, with some cars having to be abandoned and others suffering minor collisions.

Barry county councillor Richard Bertin praised the local authority for its response.

"I think the Vale Council did well. It is obvious that the snow was going to cause disruption, but when you consider the cuts, the Vale Council staff did an amazing job."

"I had very few complaints but lots of

praise for the gritter staff. So well done to all who helped on the day!"

On Barry Road, council workers helped to push cars up the hill after wheels began spinning on patches of ice.

GEM reader Mrs Julie Harris commended the bus companies for maintaining their services.

She explained: "Because of the snow, I was unable to drive my car to work, so I decided to catch a bus."

"I would like to thank the bus driver who went out of his way to stop for me. I would also like to commend the drivers who were operating in difficult conditions."

A day off school meant some families took sleds to the nearest park to give youngsters the chance to make the most of the snowy conditions.

Gritting runs took place at 4pm on Friday, and the Vale Council pledged to keep gritting over the weekend to keep traffic

on the go. Cardiff and Vale University Health Board cancelled all routine outpatient clinics at both the University Hospital of Wales and University Hospital Llandough.

Urgent outpatient services including acute renal, acute paediatric and acute oncology clinics went ahead as planned, with support from the Wales Ambulance Service Trust.

UHB deputy chief executive, Paul Holland, apologised to patients and assured them that appointments will be rescheduled as soon as practicable.

"We unfortunately had to make the decision to suspend the majority of our outpatient clinics, so that we could prioritise the use of our staff to those patients who are currently in hospital, and managing emergency cases."

"We understand that the poor weather conditions, coupled with problems in the local public transport

network, mean that it was safer for patients and staff that we took this step."

"We will be actively contacting all affected patients during the next week to reschedule their appointments, and ask them to bear with us while we cope with the knock-on effects of the weather conditions."

Very light snow over the weekend, combined with more work from the council, meant by Monday things were returning to normal.

However, further snowfalls on Tuesday led to more disruption on the roads and to services.

Forecasters predict an improvement in conditions towards the weekend.

People are able to get regular winter service updates from the Vale Council at: www.vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk. School updates are included.

Leanne helps out as the fires rage

RIGHT: Leanne travelled 70 kilometres along the Tasmanian coast, through heavy surf, to take supplies to people threatened by local fires.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Nigel said: "She was competing in the 2002 World Championships – the beach is 47 miles long!"

"It was Rhooose Lifeguards who encouraged her when she was young. It's great to see youngsters get on."

Competing in Leanne's blood and just a few days ago, she represented the Tasmanian team at the interstate championships in Sydney.

However, unlike the snow-laden Vale, the temperatures were a little warmer.

Nigel explained: "It was the hottest day ever in Sydney!"

Mayor's coffee

MERTHYR DYFAN Church will benefit from the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan's charity coffee morning in the Corporate Suite, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry on January 29 from 10.30am-12 noon.



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8th March	The Gillettes
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Penarth Computer Club Resolutions filed

HOW are your New Year resolutions faring? Walking more? Been to the gym? Eating less?

Now is the time to review the wording to see if there is an escape clause. No? Shame. Never mind. Learn from your mistakes and do a better job of drafting new ones next year.

Formulating mine for 2013 was perfectly straightforward – they are exactly the same as they were last year.

I said I would sort out my filing system before I bought any new kit. I sort of kept that one as I haven't bought any new kit – but then, I haven't sorted out my filing system either.

I already had the storage capacity and I have made some progress. I have used it to make copies of my files for safe-keeping.

The kit has four hard drives and includes its own internal software that ensures that if any one (or two) of the drives should fail, I simply slot in a replacement and the kit restores the files from the duplicates it automatically keeps internally.

This means that my files are safe from loss, even if they are not in apple-pie order. The kit is not cheap, but I do have peace of mind. The disruption caused by losing important files is horrifying – but you already know that, of course. In the meantime, I am struggling to get the organising job done.

Normally, I am so organised that friends jealously comment on it and wish they could be the same. I explain that I have to work at being organised simply because I am so naturally disorganised that if I didn't I wouldn't be able to find anything at all.

To get the benefit of all this effort to be organised, I need to establish my home network (another 2012 resolution). Unfortunately, I am not a computer whizzkid (neither whizz nor kid if it comes to that) and I haven't got around to nagging the right person to help me sort it out.

It should be easy to get my XP laptop to network with my Windows 7 desktop. Everybody, including Microsoft, says so, although several have tried and failed to set up my machines satisfactorily.

Councillors' surgery

THE Labour Vale and town councillors for Buttrills and Court Wards, Barry, Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans and Stuart Egan, will hold an advice surgery on Saturday, January 26 from 10am-11.30am in the meeting room of Barry Library Kings Square. No appointment necessary.

None of the above stops me from using and enjoying my computers and I will be like a dog with two tails when my home network is fully up and running.

I did not set myself a deadline to complete my 2012 resolutions and they expired on December 31. Now they are so last year. I still have over 11 months before I am in danger of breaking this year's resolutions and hope springs.

In the meantime, I shall put my mind to seeing if I can find a simpler way to solve all my little computing difficulties. Hmmm! Extra hard drives are so inexpensive these days.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, February 12 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, 7.30pm for 8pm, and is titled Improving digital photographs – simply. See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk for more information.

HOWARD DESMOND



Gareth Roberts and John Waud

Barry Choir celebrate their anniversary in style!

BARRY Male Voice Choir has resumed rehearsals, having celebrated its 110th anniversary in appropriate style.

Among the highlights of the celebratory year was the long-established Christmas concert with RAF St Athan Voluntary Band at All Saints Church, Barry.

Held in aid of the benefit of the Barry branch of the NSPCC, a tankard was presented to choir vice-chairman John Waud by chairman Gareth Roberts for 40 years' choir service.

Gareth Roberts said: "John is to be congratulated on his exemplary service to the choir."

As vice-chairman and committee member, he continues to play a valuable part in the running of this busy organisation.

New members are welcome to join the choir. There is no demanding voice test. Go along to choir practice on Monday or Thursday night at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Street, Barry; telephone 01446 402398.

PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Magnificent views of 'backbone of Gower'

AFTER the recent rainfall, it felt good to be greeted by sunshine and dry weather when Joy led a group of six walkers and Pepper the spaniel on a walk around part of south Gower.

Following a lane into the Mill Wood, they passed the remains of a 16th century corn mill. Interestingly, the empty pond below the mill is a quartered circular stew pond.

During the Middle Ages stew ponds were often attached to monasteries to supply winter food – this one was used to raise and hold fish for the Penrice Estate.

Passing the gates that lead up to the 13th century remains of Penrice Castle, during the 1770s Thomas Mansel Talbot owned the land and built himself a villa before landscaping the surrounding area and many of the lakes, gardens and walks still remain today.

At the church of St Andrew the group viewed the murder stone in memory of Mary Kavanagh of Penmaen who was murdered on October 3, 1829 aged 75 years.

A gap was left for the name of the perpetrator to be inserted but as it was never filled presumably the culprit was never caught.

In the churchyard stands a monument to David Bennet, whose family farmed at nearby Pitt Farm until the late 18th century.

After enjoying refreshments at Oxwich Bay where the view stretched along to Three Cliff Bay and beyond, the group passed St Illtyd's Church, built on the site of a 6th century cell, and climbed uphill and around very muddy paths at Oxwich Point.

Lunch was enjoyed further along the coastal path near The Sands where years ago the beach was used by smugglers and casks of brandy and illicit supplies of tobacco were hauled up the cliff by horse and chain and sold locally.

Reaching the eastern end of the beach at Horton, a series of sand dunes were fenced off with barbed wire during the Second World War as they had been mined by the British Army.

Most were removed during peace time but some stray mines have been located over the years and people are always reminded to take care!

American soldiers had a camp near Horton prior to the Normandy landings and Hoar Well provided villagers with fresh water into the second half of the 20th century.

Climbing out of Horton, a track and muddy lane led the group into fields from where there were magnificent views of Cefn Bryn which is known as 'the backbone of Gower' and rises to 617 feet, the second highest point on Gower.

During the Bronze Age the hill was used for ritual ceremonies and burials.

Entering woodland once more the group meandered along tracks to the Mill Wood pond and retraced their steps back to their start point.

On January 26, meet at 9.30am at the Woodland Trust car park on the Michaelston-le-Pit lane for a 5.5-mile moderate walk taking in Leckwith and the River Ely; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On January 27, meet at 9.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a six-mile easy/moderate walk from the National Park Visitors Centre Libanus; contact Val H on 029 2051 3274.

To follow the group please log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com. Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Passmores has been providing expert legal advice to the people and businesses of Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan since their establishment in the 1950's.

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For our Barry office telephone us on **01446 721000** or email us **mail@passmores.com**.

For Cardiff our telephone number is **02920 660225**

More information can be found on **www.passmores.com** or our Facebook and Twitter pages.

We are able to offer home, hospital and nursing home visits upon request and shall shortly be offering online services for Wills, Divorces and Children's issues in order that our services are more accessible and convenient to the general public as we wish to accommodate those people who lead busy lives and may be unable to attend our offices in person.



Carli Evans and Sally Matthews who will be only too pleased to deal with any legal query you may have.

21 Tynwydd Road, Barry - 01446 721000

SNOWFALL BRINGS DISRUPTION TO BARRY – BUT FUN FOR THE CHILDREN!

HEAVY snowfall across the town last Friday, January 18, led to closed schools and vehicles struggling to get safely around the town.

Although shops were open the town centre remained quiet.

For children, however, the day off school provided a rare opportunity to go to the local park and make snowmen, ride on sleds and throw a few snowballs!



**PHOTOGRAPHS
by TIM CHAPMAN**



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Woman (96) robbed

POLICE have launched an appeal, after a silver hair-brush and mirror belonging to a 96-year-old woman, is believed to have been stolen from a nursing home in the Penarth area just before Christmas.

It was reported that the items were bought for the owner by her late husband, when they were married around 70 years ago.

They are silver in colour and have the initials BDS engraved on the back and are of great sentimental value to the victim and her family.

Anyone with information can contact police on 101, or Crimestoppers, free and anonymously, on 0800 555 111.



Starting the new year with a resolution – and some positive news for the Vale

VIEW FROM THE VALE



by Coun
NEIL MOORE
Leader of the
Vale of
Glamorgan
Council

MAY I begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year?

January 1 brought with it some very welcome bright weather, which meant many people wanted to visit Barry Island.

This, coupled with the New Year's Day Swim, brought some 15,000 visitors to the Island, resulting in unfortunate traffic chaos, despite the best efforts of the Police, who were stretched for resources that day.

Usually, the council is given prior notice by organisers of similar events and this triggers a 'traffic management plan' to be put in place. Unfortunately, this was not the case in this instance.

I have since had discussions with the Police and our events liaison panel to look to implementing a traffic management plan for next year to try and prevent a recurrence.

Inevitably, many people are now asking when the new road to the island will be built. Regrettably, a previous planning committee changed the date when the Waterfront developers had to build a road. It is now planned in phases over the next

several years.

Personally, I believe the road should have been built at an early stage and the change was a huge mistake and I will be looking to see how we can get this road built as soon as possible.

On a positive note, I would urge everyone to look at the recent BBC TV programme 'Welsh Towns' on iPlayer. It showed Barry, and particularly Barry Island, in a very good light, with a great future – a sentiment I agree with.

As a council, we are now looking very carefully at our budget for next year and beyond. Regrettably, the amount of money that is available to us is restricted and we are going to have to find considerable savings. It is not going to be an easy job to continue providing the services residents require, but we will do everything possible to do so.

We are currently looking to reintroduce a mobile library service, and we have contacted our town and community councils to ask if they will work in partnership with us in running a mobile service in their areas.

We hope that they will join us, along with Barry Town Council who are already on board. This will enable the library service to visit venues, like older person clubs, sheltered housing or the rural areas without a library.

Everyone will know that our roads have been affected by the recent weeks of continued rain. Problems with potholes are being exacerbated, but our highways team are making repairs as quickly as possible and we have put extra

resources into this work as part of the 'Big Fill' campaign, which has been very successful.

In addition, the Vale suffered flooding on the weekend before Christmas, with many homes and businesses affected. We must look at what can be done to prevent flooding to properties.

As it is predicted to become a common occurrence we will be convening multi-agency meetings to look at the issues and explore solutions.

The recent snow and ice have also been an issue and brought into play the council's winter maintenance plans and I would like to thank our dedicated staff who double up at these times, not only to collect our refuse (where they can) but who also grit and clear the roads.

They have also been filling the roadside salt containers, so they can be used when necessary. If you know of any areas that need a grit-bin, please let us know either by telephoning 01446 700111 or e-mailing CIV@vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk.

I look forward to reporting more news from the Vale next month.

CCTV aids arrests

THREE people were arrested in Barry for alleged theft during the last week, with the help of the Vale Council's CCTV operators. The police were contacted 16 times up to January 20.



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www.llantwitschool.org.uk

Roadworks report

Road closure: *Opposite Mount Pleasant Farm, Llangan; Church Street, Cowbridge, adjacent to Brew House; Moulton, Llancarfan.*

Temporary traffic control: *A48 at Sycamore Cross junction between Bonvilston and St Nicholas.*

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Council to consult over 20 mph zones in Penarth and Llandough

THE Vale Council is to consult the public about plans to introduce a 20mph speed limit in Penarth and Llandough.

At last Monday's cabinet meeting in Penarth, members set in motion plans to carry out a consultation exercise.

Cabinet members were told that the idea of 20 mph speed limits and zones where appropriate, particularly in residential areas, is encouraged and supported by the Welsh Government.

They were told that if someone is hit by a car at 35 mph, the chance of survival is 50 per cent. However, at 20 mph, the chance of survival leaps to 97 per

by PHILIP IRWIN

cent. The report considered by the cabinet added that a 20 mph speed limit can also encourage more people to walk and cycle, thereby creating more social streets.

A trigger for this idea is the recent development of the Pont y Werin over the River Ely. The council also has an aim of developing a network of walking and cycling routes to the bridge from Penarth, and a 20mph limit could help this.

The report states that there are high levels of cycle usage in the town and strong local interest in cycle initiatives, as evidenced by the membership on Pont y Werin

Steering Group.

The report claims that in reality, traffic speeds throughout the town are generally low and it is considered that the introduction of a 20mph zone would not have a significant impact upon vehicle speeds in the town.

It has also long been an aspiration to improve and encourage greater pedestrian and cyclist movement between the Marina, the Esplanade and the town centre and the provision of a 20 mph zone could well encourage greater and safer movement between these areas.

There would have to be a formal, statutory consultation with South Wales Police, who enforce speed restrictions in the Vale.

Discussions would also have to take place with bus operators, the emergency services and residents.

The report says that a feasibility study should follow the public consultation. Doing the feasibility study first, it says, could run the risk of prejudging the consultation.

'USE BUS SERVICE 86 OR LOSE IT!' SAYS GEM READER

THE bus service 86 to Culverhouse Cross runs on Thursday and Saturday mornings, starting from Barry and going through Dinas Powys and on to Culverhouse for a two-hour shopping stay, before returning in the reverse direction.

At present, the service is in danger of finishing as there is not a sufficient number of passengers but the operator is willing to con-

tinue if more people were to use the bus.

It is possible that he could do a circular route through Sully before driving to Dinas Powys. If anyone from Sully would be interested – as well as more passengers from Dinas Powys – the bus drives through Cardiff Road, Valley View, Plas Essyllt and Longmeadow before continuing along Cardiff Road before driving up to the village and through the lanes to Culverhouse. Please contact me on 029 2051 3274.

The route already has designated bus-stops but it is, in reality, a

'hail and ride' service, so can be stopped at any point. It would be a great shame if this useful service were to finish as many people, especially the elderly and those who don't drive, have found it an invaluable way to get to the shops, and also to meet others or to enjoy a coffee and a chat.

Also, the driver is very friendly and is very caring of his passengers.

As the saying goes "use it or lose it."

Val Hartrey, Dinas Powys.

Litter fines
LOCAL authority support company XFOR issued 29 fixed penalty notices in the Vale during the week commencing January 14.

XFOR has been tasked by the Vale Council to help tackle dog fouling and littering incidents in the Vale.

It is taking a zero tolerance approach to environmental crimes, and offenders are being issued with a fixed penalty notice of £75 without warning.

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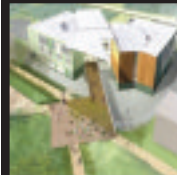
Cowbridge Comprehensive School
Ysgol Gyfun Y Bont Faen

Sixth Form Open Evening

...take a closer look

Tuesday 29 January 2013
4.30-6.30pm

An open evening for students considering taking their AS/A2 Level Studies or L3 BTEC courses



FLORAL SOCIETY

THE annual general meeting of the Barry Floral Society will be held on January 29 and on February 12, the first meeting of the club's 51st year, members will welcome Mrs Sue Blandford of Usk.

She is a national demonstrator and speaker for NAFAS and the title of the meeting is 'East of the Sun'. Meetings are held at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry at 2.15pm.

New members are always welcome.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many people have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their home as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, BCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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Age Concern's new health club

AGE Concern Cardiff and Vale is starting a free Health and Diet Club at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, monthly each Wednesday from 11am-12.15pm, following the Keep Fit class.

Advice will be available on an informal basis from an adviser and you will be able to also have a health check.

This is the latest initiative in health advice for the over-50s, whether male or female. The first class is on Wednesday, January 30.

For further information, contact Nona Hexter on 01446 732385.

PACT meetings

BARUC PACT, Barry Island Community Centre, today (January 24) at 7pm.

LLANDOUGH PACT, Royal British Legion, Penlan Road, Llandough on January 28 at 7pm.

STANWELL PACT public meeting will be held at Stanwell School on February 1 at 7pm.

ST ATHAN PACT, The Gathering Place on February 3 at 2pm.

BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL NEWS BULLETIN

Students rally to support LATCH children's charity



Raffle organisers, Matthew David, David Gent and Shaun Harris, with winner Mr Davies.

At the end of last term, Barry Comprehensive School sixth form students raised funds for LATCH, as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate qualification.

The students planned and organised a range of activities, including a teachers v sixth form football match, a raffle, guess-the-number-of-sweets-in-the-jar, bingo, and a talent show.

The first prize in the raffle, a tour of the House of Commons, was won by Mr Davies.

The second prize of a voucher for some healthy fruit and veg at Jacqui's Greengrocer, was won by Mr Green. Mr Carter's year-8 class were really pleased to win the sweets!

The school has been a long-standing supporter of LATCH, delivering presents to the Oncology Clinic at Llandough Hospital for many years and now continuing to support the Children's Hospital at the University of Wales Hospital in Cardiff.

A big thank you to Alun Cairns MP and Mr and Mrs Thompson for donating the prizes. The students are now one step closer to gaining their Welsh Baccalaureate qualification, raising over £200 for LATCH in the process.



Raffle organiser, Daniel Woolford, with winner Mr Green

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

Sebastian was clearly enjoying himself in the snow this week!

A three-year-old Lurcher, he is a bright young dog, who has had an unsettled life so far.

He can be anxious, but with a patient and understanding owner, the centre staff think he will really shine. He would really like to live with another similar-sized dog.

He is house trained, and although he doesn't like to be left alone for too long, they think he would get used to it quite quickly with another dog for company. He deserves a second chance!

Please give Sebastian a home...



(Snow)dog of the week: Sebastian!

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PUPILS IN THE PARLOUR!



THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Les Sword, recently invited pupils from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg to Barry Town Council for a tour of the Parlour and council chamber.

During their visit, they discussed the role of the mayor and councillors within the community.

Howells School celebrates ICT Mark award success

STUDENTS at Howell's School, Llandaff in Cardiff are celebrating – after being awarded the prestigious ICT Mark for the second time.

The principal, Sally Davis, said: "The award recognises the school's success in developing the strategic use of ICT in both administration and across the curriculum."

"Parents will have proof that their children are attending a school at the forefront of modern technology."

"On behalf of Howell's School, I am delighted to be awarded the ICT Mark. It recognises our positive approach to ICT and the



ABOVE: Pupils enjoy the iPad sessions.

benefits it is bringing to our students. We believe that ICT can be used in every aspect of learning and that it is essential our students are equipped for the modern world. Applying for the award really brought into focus the ICT work that we are doing each and every day. All the

students and staff deserve credit for this achievement."

ICT development manager Cathy Darnton, said: "The ICT Mark Award recognises the strategic changes made over the past three years at Howell's, most notably in our junior school.

Forum enjoy Christmas dinner delight!

SIXTY members with their wives and partners, attended the annual Christmas dinner at the Masonic Hall.

After a few words of welcome by Peter Westcott, the chairman, Ernie David started the proceedings before the serving of the three-course meal.

Diane Westcott organised a raffle, where most of the ladies and men received a present.

The vice chairman, Ian Birchenough, ended the dinner by thanking the chairman for organising the successful event, and also

thanked Diane for not only organising the raffle, but providing the refreshments every week at forum meetings.

New members are very welcome to the weekly meetings at URC Windsor Road Church Hall. Next week, Thursday, January 31 the speaker will be Mark Lewis, whose subject will be 'The Great Flood of 1607'.

For further information about Barry Men's Forum contact Peter Westcott on telephone 02920 594881.

PMW

BARRY CAMERA CLUB NEWS

Top photographer proves inspiring to club members

ON Friday, January 4, Barry Camera Club welcomed Clive Minnitt from Bristol.

He is one of the UK's leading photographers. His work has been widely exhibited, including at Christies and the Mall Galleries in London, and closer to home at Cardiff's St David's Hall.

He is the author of a number of photographic books and has contributed to a number of magazines.

Clive also leads photographic holidays to different locations in the UK and abroad.

Clive entertained the audience with his humour, his display of funny hats and the stories behind his images.

His audience were inspired by the quality of his images, technique and subject matter.

Clive's last visit to the club was in 2001.

Let's hope we don't have to wait too long for the next visit. If anyone is interested in purchasing any of Clive's images, he can be contacted via his web site, www.minnitt.co.uk.

Barry Camera Club



meets every Friday evening from 7pm to 9.30pm between September and May at St Francis Millennium Centre, Porth-y-Castell, Barry Garden Suburb, Barry, CF62 6NX.

New members are always welcome to attend with no obligation to join. Alternatively, for more information visit www.barrycameraclub.org.uk.

FRANK CLELAND

AM's surgery
VALE of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding an advice surgery tomorrow (Friday, January 25) from 4pm-5pm at the Lee Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys.

ABOVE and BELOW: Examples of Clive Minnitt's work.



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New Auris Icon 1.33 VVT-i 5 door manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.8 (5.6), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7), Combined 52.3 (5.4). CO₂ Emissions 125g/km.



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THE BEDROOM TAX WILL AFFECT 600 VALE HOUSEHOLDS

THE Vale Council has released full details of tenants who will be affected by the new 'bedroom tax'.

From April 2013 housing benefit rules are changing for 'working age' tenants who live in council and housing association properties.

Deductions will be made from housing benefit claims where a housing benefit claimant is living in a property that is classed as too large for them.

There will be a 14 per cent deduction for one extra bedroom and a 25 per cent deduction for two or more bedrooms.

A council report has revealed that there are currently more than 600 households that will be adversely affected by the reforms, and this will result in financial hardship in most cases.

This is broken down by residents who are:

Currently living in four-bed properties:

Underoccupying by one room – 12; underoccupying by two rooms – eight; underoccupying by three rooms – seven.

Currently living in three-bed properties:

Underoccupying by one room – 281, and underoccupying by two rooms – 117.

Finally, of those currently living in two-bed properties, 218 are classed as underoccupying by one room.

The information was revealed in an appraisal of the HOMES4U organisation, considered by members of the scrutiny committee for housing and public protection.

The report said that there are a number of joint working initiatives with

by PHILIP IRWIN

housing benefits, and with the existing HOMES4U partner organisations, attempting to minimise the impact of the reforms.

Information was being provided in a variety of formats including open day events, distribution of leaflets, letters, home visits, improved money advice and amendment to the existing web pages for both council and housing associations.

The report said that steps would be taken to place tenants who are underoccupying – and therefore suffering benefit cuts – in other properties.

It went on to say that, in future, applicants will only be considered for properties that are suitable in line with the reforms.

The report went on to say: "There will be, as a result of the reforms, far greater emphasis on mutual exchanges to allow existing tenants to source more suitable properties across the HOMES4U partnership."

"All officers will look to promote, source, and actively manage mutual exchanges for the benefit of tenants in the Vale."

The report warned: "It is anticipated that some tenants may experience financial difficulty when adjusting to the welfare reform proposals."

"The accommodations cap and the reduction in council tax benefits will have an immediate impact on an individual's gross and disposable income."

"In addition the introduction of universal credit will also have an impact, as individuals are expected to manage their own benefits and expenditure, as opposed to the housing benefit being sent directly to the landlord."

Coun Ian Johnson, of Plaid Cymru, who represents the Buttrills ward in Barry's town centre, says that the plans are unfair and will penalise families for circumstances which may be beyond their control.

He blamed the Coalition Government for the policy.

He said: "Many of these families live in Barry town centre accommodation, where the majority of social housing is maintained."

"There are over 600 families in the Vale who will find themselves losing out financially in April when this unfair Tory bedroom tax is introduced. Some families could lose £25 per week."

"Families are going to be penalised for where they live, even though there are no realistic options where they can move."

"It is not as if families can up sticks and move house at the drop of a hat. People's lives just aren't as simple as that."

"The Vale of Glamorgan's Local Housing Market Allocation report from 2010 says that up to three-quarters of social rented housing should be one or two-bedroom accommodation to meet our needs."

"But it takes time to change the housing profile and that should be a long-term aim."

"The current proposals are just about making cuts at the expense of some of our most vulnerable families."

Under the formula for under-occupation, two children of the same sex are expected to share a room until the elder is 16.

Two children of different genders are expected to share a bedroom until the elder is 10. Couples who live together are expected to share a room.

Council unveils its plans for Cosmeston

THE Vale Council is planning to put the Cosmeston Medieval Village Trust at the centre of efforts to develop the country park.

by PHILIP IRWIN

opened to country park visitors at no charge, although the visitor experience has been reduced due to fewer costumed staff.

Guided tours continue to be offered to pre-booked parties, including schools, but council-led events have been stopped. The council has set fees for third parties to deliver events, at their own financial risk.

The report noted that it has been possible to re-introduce guided tours for the general public without pre-booking, albeit at present limited to weekends. This has been done at no additional costs and original savings targets are being met.

Entry remains free of charge, with electronic wands in multiple languages available as an alternative to a tour, at a charge.

The village, says the report, now forms an integral part of the country park, with all visitors enjoying free entry. However, with fewer costumed staff on site, it is recognised that interpretation needs to be improved.

In this respect, an application was successfully submitted to Creative Rural Communities, the Council-led Rural Regeneration Partnership.

This grant is for funding to purchase comprehensive interpretation materials and signage. Match funding will be found from existing council budgets.

In parallel to this, officers are exploring ways of generating volunteer activity on site, to increase the number of costumed interpreters. It is also possible that some animals may be reintroduced.

Leisure and other commercial organisations have been invited to put on activities and events at both council-owned country parks (Cosmeston and Porthkerry).

The report says that these plans rely on bringing in external resources; through grants, income, volunteer activity, or simply ideas.

To aid this, a Friends of Cosmeston Lakes Group is planned. If such a body becomes a charity, it can apply for grants not available to the council. The report notes that, as a result of the recent changes at the village, a community interest group has formed, wishing to enhance the village.

Officers have worked closely with and supported this group, resulting in a formal proposal being received. The group has now constituted itself into a not for profit limited company, registered as the Cosmeston Medieval Village Trust.

The Trust has presented a range of aspirations for involvement in the village. As a starting point, it would like to recruit volunteers, raise funds and in particular plan a programme of core events at the village.

The council plans to enter into a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with the Trust.

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Sat 9 Mar 14:30 Scotland v Wales & 17:00 Ireland v France

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Whether it is films that resonate on after nearly 20 years (*Reservoir Dogs*, *Pulp Fiction*) or weaker efforts (*Death Proof*), his films always offer something intriguing, taking his genre influences and crafting films of real power and style.

His latest film works as part spaghetti western, part blaxploitation film, in *Django Unchained*, Jamie Foxx plays the titular character, who, upon being rescued by Dr King Schultz (Christoph Waltz), a bounty hunter, vows to rescue his wife (Kerry Washington), who is being held as a slave by the sadistic Calvin Candie (Leonardo DiCaprio).

Hitting the road, Django and Schultz set out to save her – and heaven forbid anyone who gets in their way...

After the weak *Death Proof*, Quentin Tarantino most certainly returned to form with *Inglourious Basterds*, his revisionist World War Two movie; releasing his take on the

spaghetti western genre (one of Tarantino's key influences) with *Django Unchained*, Tarantino makes it two for two, the film a truly exceptional piece of work that enthralls from start to finish.

From the opening credits, there is no disputing this is a Quentin Tarantino effort, and so it continues over its outlandish, but not sluggish, 165-minute running time. In a way it feels like a culmination of Tarantino's influences and own work, the film dripping with references to the genre that inspired it, comedic asides and a blackly comic tone that Tarantino always strikes just right, and keen and sharp dialogue that feels iconic the moment it rolls off the tongue.

While the historical accuracy of the script, and its depictions of

slavery, may be well asked (with Spike Lee having admonished Tarantino for making light of the struggles faced in the world at this time) it certainly manages to entertain, viewing events with an eye for the comedic rather than the dramatic.

Tarantino is also continuing to evolve as a director, and this feels like his most sprawling and epic film yet; partly this has much to do with the nature of the western and the shots of the sprawling vistas that are de rigueur, but also in the way Tarantino handles the shootouts, a climactic gunfight echoing the feel of the House of Blue Leaves sequence from *Kill Bill: part one* (like *Django*... a film about revenge and righting wrongs), and also the use of locations, giving the film a grand scope.

Having stolen *Inglourious Basterds* from his auspicious co-stars, Christoph Waltz does the same thing here

as Dr Schultz, the character fitting the actor like a glove. Delivering the dialogue with a flourish, Waltz is thoroughly superb, while Leonardo DiCaprio's first stab at villainy sees the actor gratefully eating up the scenery in a character that benefits from the actor's performance.

With Samuel L Jackson doing a wonderfully slimy turn as Candie's faithful servant, the film doesn't want for quality performances; but against such competition, Jamie Foxx is perhaps the weakest on show. Certainly, he offers a performance of physical presence and no little degree of cool, but the character goes against the actor, Django's stolid sense of getting even coming up short against the other actors' vibrant characters.

It's the only real minus in a film full of positives, one that sees Quentin Tarantino hit a home run and deliver a

fine piece of work; for *Django Unchained* sees Tarantino unleashed!

VERDICT – A glorious effort that hits all the right notes, *Django Unchained* is another high-quality Quentin Tarantino film. Packed with the director's trademark dialogue, chutzpah and sense of comedy, it makes for an enthralling and hugely entertaining experience even before you take into account the superb performances.

Essential viewing.

SEE THIS IF YOU

LIKED: *Kill Bill* (2003/2004), *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly* (1967).



by GARETH JAMIESON

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PANTO VISIT

THE Friends and Neighbours Senior Citizen Group, which meets at the Senior Health Shop in Holton Road, Barry, got this year's programme off with a bang, when they went to see Sleeping Beauty at the New Theatre, Cardiff.

For many of the group, this was the first visit to a pantomime for many years. They all remarked on the magnificent costumes and colour and how much panto had changed.

WHAT'S ON

in brief

Youth disco

THERE will be a youth disco at Sax Nightclub, Bridgend, on January 25 from 7pm-10pm.

A free bus leaves Asda, Maesteg at 6.30pm, arriving back at 10.30pm and children will be accompanied by Maesteg PCSOs Kim Harris and Ross Evans. Entry fee £6.

Rummage sale

A **RUMMAGE** sale will be held in All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, on Saturday, January 26 (10am-12 noon). Entry 50p, to include tea and coffee. Lots of bargains for everyone. All proceeds to charity.

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, January 27 at 2pm, coastal path west, starting at Sully Church, South Road, Sully.

For details of Valeways walks, up to the end of March, contact website www.valeways.org.uk or info@valeways.org.uk, Facebook or Twitter, or ring 01446 749000, Monday to Thursday.

Scout jumble

THE 1st Dinas Powys Scout group holds a jumble sale at 1.30pm on Saturday, February 2 in the Scout Hall, Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys. Admission 50p.

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2013

Vale of Glamorgan

Building

EXCELLENCE

AWARDS



Surveyors from the council's Building Control Group have nominated builders who have achieved high quality work in the following categories:

- **Extension/Alteration**
- **Single Dwellings**
- **Housing (2 - 10 Dwellings)**
- **Conversion Residential Apartments**
- **Community/Public Buildings**

CRITERIA:

- Compliance with Building Regulations and energy efficiency.
- Supplying and managing information (giving of notices and information relative to the work).
- Speed of fault rectification.
- Site environment, safety and storage of materials (so as not to be detrimental to their use).
- Client/customer satisfaction.

Builders and developers who use the building regulation service of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, will be attending the 'Building Awards' dinner organised through the council's Building Control Group.

For the tenth year in succession, the awards dinner will be held at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry, on Friday, January 25.

Nominations for the awards are provided by the council's Building Control surveyors, who are responsible for the supervision of the projects as they progress on site, through to the completion of building work.

Coun Fred Johnson, Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, stated:

"This is the tenth successive year of the 'Building Awards' and I have great pleasure in providing recognition to builders and developers who are determined to provide a high-quality customer-orientated service.

"The nominations go to show, yet again, that there are several excellent examples of high-quality construction projects which have been undertaken within the Vale of Glamorgan. Ensuring that buildings are constructed in accordance with current building regulations requires a very high standard of workmanship, and the builders nominated this year have proven that they can meet this requirement.

"I hope we build on the success of last year's event, when two of our winners went forward to represent Wales at the National Awards, in London, in November."

Marcus Goldsworthy, Operational Manager for the Development and Building Control Group, said:

"Building regulations have a key role whenever you decide to make alterations, extend or construct new buildings. With recent changes to the planning process and devolution of building regulations to the Welsh Assembly; reducing carbon emissions and improving performance and energy efficiency is at the front of the development process.

"Everyone has a part to play in conserving energy and reducing carbon emissions – whether we are homeowners seeking to extend our homes – or developers taking forward a major new scheme.

"Changing the way we construct buildings to make them more sustainable will be a big challenge for all involved in the industry".

The Development and Building Control Group falls within the Planning and Transportation Division of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, whose Head of Service, Rob Thomas, stated:

"Development of any size has a major impact on the day-to-day lives of persons who are undertaking building projects. Ultimately, it is the builder who has the major responsibility in satisfying, not only the customer needs, but also the terms of the legislation.

"The Building Awards will provide all those involved with well-deserved recognition for consistently carrying out work of a high standard".

The Vale of Glamorgan Council would also like to thank all the sponsors of this event, without whom it would not be possible to recognise the builders and developers whose quality of work is making a positive difference to the environment of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Sponsors are: Nina Estate Agents from Barry, ACD Skip & Recycling from Bridgend, The Mount Sorrel Hotel, and The Glamorgan GEM.

Winners of the Vale of Glamorgan event will go forward to the LABC south Wales 'Building Awards' dinner that will be held at the Vale of Glamorgan Golf & Spa Resort, Hensol, on April 26. This will be hosted by television and radio personality, Jamie Owen.

The ultimate achievement can be recognised at national level, where the winners of the All Wales event will be nominated for the LABC 'National Building Awards', which will include nominations from most of the local authorities throughout Wales and England, to be held in London in November this year.



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2013
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Extension/Alterations



The Hollies, Wenvoe

Agent: Nigel Arnold

Contractor: Gareth Harvey

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Phil and Andrew Forse from Forse joinery
Stuart Burgoyne from Premier roofing
Phil Webley from WW Builders
Mark and Danny from Mark Eveleigh heating and plumbing
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Ian Smith from Ian smith glazing
Paul O'Connor from O'Connor's Builders
Nigel Arnold Architect

The Hollies, Port Road, Wenvoe, Cardiff CF56 6AB
Mobile 07779 169139

Submitted under a Building Notice application, this scheme aimed to completely transform an existing three-bedroom bungalow into a modern family home.

It resulted in an exceptional development that is both authentic and striking in appearance.

The existing bungalow underwent major structural alterations, including the addition of a two-storey extension with balcony to the rear of the property. The original roof structure was replaced with a new engineered design, which included Glulam ridge beams and purlins, allowing a greater freedom of usable space within the habitable roof area.

The applicant also ensured high levels of insulation were provided, to mitigate the use of heating resources.

Despite being of an unconventional design, few problems arose during the construction phase and the applicant ensured Building Control involvement throughout the project by maintaining an excellent working relationship.

A high level of workmanship was apparent throughout and resulted in a final product that is a worthy nomination for this year's awards.



Ty Llywd, Penarth

Agent: Glyn Smith

Contractor: Phil Harris



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Proposal: Extension to the side of existing house, providing a dining area adjacent to kitchen and extended backroom at first floor level.

The proposal consists of a two-storey high space, with a predominantly glazed roof and large lantern light over. The finishes have been chosen to complement the building's existing features.

In order to take advantage of the property's prominent position overlooking the cliff top, which gives sea views over the channel, the end wall has been glazed. The walls have been finished in stonework to match the existing facades with bath stone embellishments; and the interior has been utilised to create a two-storey high living/dining kitchen space, decorated to accentuate the impression of height in the room.

The builder has kept Building Control informed throughout the scheme by means of good liaison.

The building has been SAP-assessed, to ensure that its thermal properties are in compliance with regulations. The result is a very usable, light and airy extension, which can be used for years to come.



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Min y Coed, Llandough

Contractor: Kathy & Neil Gallavan

This development, submitted in full plans format, consisted of a single-storey oak-framed extension, designed to incorporate a mezzanine gallery, which also provides access to a first floor balcony.

Building Control were heavily involved in the construction process, and also took part in design-meetings with the oak frame manufacturer. One minor contravention regarding the spiral staircase was quickly rectified, to produce a unique extension worthy of nomination.



10, The Limes, Cowbridge



Agent: Barry Mayled
Contractor:
Neil Smith & Co,
Cardiff Ltd

Neil Smith & Co.
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This contemporary extension, submitted in a full plans format, provides a living kitchen space, in total contrast to the original 'cottage'-style property.

The existing cottage underwent much structural alteration, to complement the substantially-glazed extension.

A whole-heat recovery system has been fitted, and the extension benefits from a sedum roof.

The contractor involved Building Control at all stages of construction, and has produced a development with a first class design and finish.



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Llandough House, Llanblethian

Contractor:
Anthony Woodward
Property
Development



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This application, submitted in full plans format, involved a steel-framed extension founded on a reinforced concrete basement.

Significant underpinning of the existing building was necessary to form the basement, and the logistics of the works tested the contractor to the full.

Regular contact was maintained with Building Control, and resulted in a substantially-glazed extension with associated balconies, to maximise the outlook over landscaped gardens.

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Single Dwelling



69 Eastgate, Cowbridge

Agent: Anderson & Associates

Contractor: Courtney Homes Ltd

This application, made in full plans format, involved the division of one large property into two. Both the newly-created dwelling and the existing dwelling were completed by similar rear extensions and conservatories, in addition to detached garages with 'studio' space over.

The contractor's meticulous attention to detail in all aspects has produced a dwelling of superb standard and finish.

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All stages of building work involved close consultation with Building Control, and the finished property is eminently worthy of nomination.



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9, Church Hill Close, Llanblethian

Agent: Quorum Associates

Contractor: Nation Brothers

This application was originally submitted as an extension, with significant internal alterations, to an existing bungalow. However, during the course of the work, the small part remaining of the original building was found to be defective, and was therefore demolished to allow a complete rebuild as a new dwelling.

The contemporary design and external finishes sit comfortably alongside the other dwellings. The builder maintained regular contact with Building Control, and the few minor items required for satisfactory completion were quickly rectified.



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Single Dwelling



Hillcrest, St. Brides Major



Agent:
Barry Mayled
Contractor:
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This development required the demolition of an outdated bungalow which originally occupied the site. Planning restrictions limited the height of the dwelling above the original ground level, which then dictated major earth works for the building to sit within the site.

Steel-framed gable end walls dominated this dwelling with substantial glazing at ground floor level to maximise views over the surrounding countryside.

The contractor, who is a former category award winner, maintained close contact with Building Control and has produced a dwelling well worthy of nomination – and in keeping with his reputation for high quality work.

Hafod Wen, St Brides

Agent: Arden Kitt Assoc Ltd

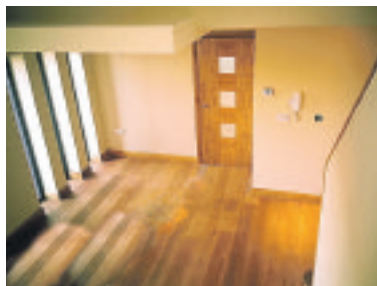
Contractor: Sharp Building Contractors

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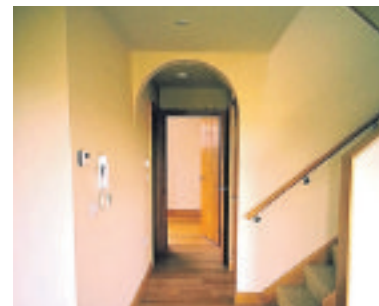
Telephone 029 2132 8155
enquiries@ardenkitt.co.uk
www.ardenkitt.co.uk



The topography of this site tested both architect and builder to produce a dwelling of unique design.

A split-level site with many planning constraints, the finished dwelling incorporates a reinforced raft foundation design, together with reinforced and tanked retaining walls.

The contractor has paid attention to detail throughout the development, and maintained regular contact with Building Control.



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Housing (2-10 Dwellings)



Waterstone Homes

Applicant: Waterstone Homes

Agent: Robertson Francis Partnership

Contractor: Waterstone Homes

The site consists of seven new 4 & 5 bedroom, detached houses, built on the former Westra Quarry.

The quarry site had been filled over a number of years and used for car parking. When work began, the site was excavated to the rock sub base and the fill graded and re-cycled, to bring the ground back to formation level.

The foundations are constructed as rafts in two sections, to allow for ground reversion and potential movement.

Throughout the build, the liaison between the contractor and Building Control was excellent, especially during the groundworks.

The site has subsequently produced seven very high-quality properties with separate double garages. Some properties are three-storey, with detection and alarm systems.



The Herberts, St. Mary Church

Applicant: Newydd Housing Association

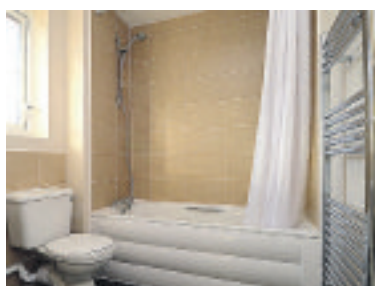
Agent: Tony King Architects

Contractor: Bullock Construction Cymru

This development of four pairs of semi-detached dwellings, is set on the outskirts of the village of St. Mary Church.

The timber-framed houses are built to higher thermal standards than required under building regulations, providing a greater level of sustainability demanded by the developers of such buildings. Whilst being of similar design, some of the dwellings are modified to suit the needs of particular occupants.

The contractors kept in regular contact with Building Control, and have also benefited from the use of the LABC warranty scheme



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Image: The Herberts Development, St Mary Church

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Conversion/Residential Apartments



Benjamin Hall, Hensol

Applicant: Leekes
Agent: Leekes
Contractor: Leekes



This development is set within the grounds of a Grade I listed building known as Hensol Castle. The nine former community buildings on the old hospital site have been transformed into four luxury apartments. Two of these units, on the south elevation, have been extended with modern glass conservatories, bringing the outdoors inside, whilst making the most of the stunning rural landscaping.

The developer had to base the designs on strict planning constraints, due to the listing of the whole development – hence the importance of the care taken of surrounding areas during the construction process.

As the unit was a former hall, it had no internal intermediate floors – therefore, the four new units required modern timber floor and metal stud partitions, which enabled the highest levels of sound and thermal insulation to be achieved.

During the construction process, the developer had to take care in preserving the envelope of the existing unit and also the existing landscape, due to tree preservation orders. In addition, the internal layout was designed around the imposing entrance, to ensure that heritage aspects of the scheme were promoted.

Very little of the existing external envelope was altered, the main alterations to the units were to the south elevation. External walls were lined with insulated products, air conditioning systems were also installed to control the living environment. The end result was the creation of high-quality fin-



ished apartments, which were very well sound proofed and highly insulated, giving a new lease of life to a formerly empty community hall.

As the owner and contractor of the scheme are one and the same, the quality of finish and site control of all aspects of the construction process could be closely monitored. A development team approach was employed between the owner/contractor, conservation officer, planning officer and the Building Control officer, which was of major benefit to the success of the scheme.



Llantwit Major Social Club Refurb

Applicant: JCW Construction Ltd

Agent: Quorum Associates

Contractor: JCW Construction Ltd.

This site was a social club which had been vacant for a number of years. The existing building, which is Victorian in design, has been extended several times – none of which enhanced the character or appearance of the building, considering it is located within a conservation area.

Developers demolished all the exten-



sions and retained the existing Victorian building by converting it into five apartments – retaining all the existing features not damaged by previous alterations, including a modern extension of 11 apartments, which will be linked to the existing unit at ground floor by a glazed link, and at first floor level by an open bridge.

The extension is of blockwork cavity construction with a smooth render finish designed to totally contrast with the stone construction of the existing unit. All apartments created within the main unit, have a unique design and each has had any original features restored, such as the Victorian mosaics tiled ground floor, timber sash windows, and queen post trusses – also exposed within the top apartment.

The u-values were enhanced on the existing property by upgrading – existing walls lined with insulation, double glazing incorporated in the refurbishment, and improved roof insulation. In fact, the new extension has incorporated increased levels of insulation of all elements, with installation of rainwater recycling and photovoltaic panels, to generate electricity to light stairwells plus general lighting of the site. Condensing boilers used throughout, including all light fittings, are of a low energy type. All work was well above current minimum levels for compliance with Building Regulations.

The building was completed to a very high standard, with excellent communication between the contractor and the Building Control surveyor.



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Community/Public Buildings



Medical Centre, Llandough Hospital

Applicant: Cardiff & Vale University Health Board

Agent: Boyesrees Architects

Contractor: Interserve Construction Ltd



This unit has been purpose-built to meet the needs of a specific group of people within the community in this part of south Wales, and greatly improve the quality of service for mental health patients.

In order to construct the unit, an existing section of the hospital had to be demolished, which would disrupt the day-to-day hospital operation. Prior to construction, the floor plan design had to pass rigorous scrutiny, due to the number of specialist users that will occupy the unit.

The evacuation strategy for the unit is staff-led, and they have to

negotiate many secure areas. In order to meet their special requirements, the unit has internal compartment walls and floors, where a very high level of 'fire-stopping' was attained by the contractor.

The unit is two storeys, with the roof void area used as a plant room where special features had to be provided, to prevent flooding, due to large capacity water tanks being housed in this area. The materials used to construct the ground floor level are of traditional cavity construction, with a cladding system used for the first floor level. A steel frame system with concrete slabbed floor

formed the main skeleton of the structure. Also, secure internal courtyards were constructed as part of the general layout and operation of the unit, along with a rear elevation interconnecting corridor – to link the new unit with the main hospital.

Numerous site meetings were held between the contractor's architects, various NHS trust staff and Building Control to plan and discuss how the project would develop through the construction process. As a consequence of this team approach, and the professionalism of the contractor, the unit was constructed to a high class finish.



Llangan Old School Room

Agent: Ian Goodenough & Associates

Contractor: SJS Services Ltd



This application relates to the total refurbishment of a vestry attached to Llangan Parish Church. The vestry had been declared as unsafe due to the deteriorating roof and floor structures, and had been out of use for several years.

The refurbishment included a completely new roof structure and timber suspended floor.

Underpinning was carried out to the external walls, together with thermal upgrading. A bio-disc sewage treatment plant and associated drainage field was installed, to allow much-needed flexible community use of an historic building.

None of this regeneration would have been possible without the excellence of the demanding reconstruction, as illustrated in the photographs of before and after the work.

BIG Lottery (Wales) has asked that the project be used as an exemplar for future excellence in linking community work to a high quality of sustainable construction.



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This project was created to fill the growing demands of the school curriculum for an additional sports facility with occasional drama use, including two first floor classrooms.

The two-storey unit was designed to visually blend in with the facade of the existing building, including all aspects of the surrounding area, as this new unit would be adjacent to the main entrance of the school. Materials have been sourced locally, with sustainability in mind, to reduce the carbon footprint on transport associated with delivery of



materials and removal of waste at the site.

The building elements have an average U Value of 0.26W/m²K throughout with a good air permeability test result of 5. The building's position meant tight control of health and safety, to minimise interference, and keep the site clean and tidy at all times.

It was completed to a very high standard, with excellent communication between the contractor and the Building Control surveyor.

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Pendoylan School

Agent:
Petersen Williams Chartered Architects

Contractor:
Pearces

This application consisted of a new school hall and classroom block linked to the traditional and existing school building. Alterations to the building were also undertaken by means of programmed building works, to minimise disruption to the school timetable.

The extension's contemporary design is in direct contrast to the existing building, yet sits comfortably within the rural village scene.

The contractors maintained regular contact with Building Control, and have produced a building with a first class finish.



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The company is progressive, is open to any new waste reduction initiatives, and actively pursues new waste recycling ideas.

It continues to source waste streams to recycling end-users. Understanding the requirements of its customers, together with good service, remains a top priority.

Councillor Eric Hacker, the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, is pleased to be associated with the Council's Building Control Group's tenth 'Building Awards' and wishes every success to the nominees.



Mae'r Cynghorydd Eric Hacker, Faer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, yn falch o ymwneud â degfed cynllun 'Gwobrau Adeiladu' Grŵp Rheoli Adeiladu'r Cyngor ac yn dymuno pob llwyddiant i'r rhai sydd wedi'u henwebu.

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As the Vale's most widely-read weekly newspaper, we are committed to supporting the community as a whole, and local businesses in particular.

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The nominees listed in this special supplement had to fight off formidable competition to get this far and they can be justifiably proud of themselves

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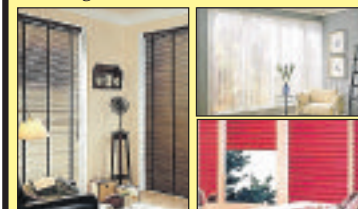
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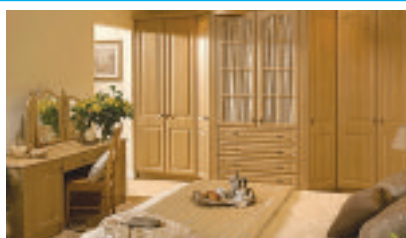
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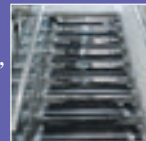
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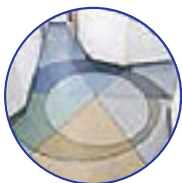
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Courage and sacrifice of men from the Vale in the Battle of the Atlantic

THIS year is deemed the 'Year of the Convoys 2013' commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic.

A series of events are planned across the UK, and the theme will feature locally when the Merchant Navy Association's (Wales) annual service takes place at Cardiff Bay.

'Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten'

Every name on all monuments represent a person. It is hoped over the next few months to look further behind the lists and names of those recorded on the Merchant Navy monument of the Vale and find out more about their lives, and even deaths, men lost to save us all.

It is important that our 'forgotten service' the British Merchant Navy is remembered. Men from the Vale of Glamorgan supported all of the Services assisting in the war effort. Although today's seamen still have a tough life, they no longer have to fear the U-Boats.

In 1939, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany, in accordance with their pre-war pledges to Poland.

German submarines (previously deployed to operating areas in late August) began attacks upon British shipping during these early operations.

The Steamship Athenia, a British passenger liner, 13,581 tons, belonging to the Anchor-Donaldson Line, was sunk by German submarine U-30 south of Rockall Bank on September 3, 1938; 1,300 survived, and 112 lives lost.

An annual remembrance and commemoration service is held at Tower Hill, London on the Sunday in September closest to Merchant Navy Day, September 3, in memory of merchant seafarers who died in World Wars One and Two and in conflicts up to the present day.

The Battle of the Atlantic was a dominating factor all through the war. Never for one moment could we forget that everything happening elsewhere, on land, at sea or in the air, depended ultimately on its outcome.

Many men from the Vale – and they often left from Barry docks – never returned from the sea.

Convoys were referred to by a letter and number code. The letters would normally stand for the port of departure, and the port of destination; the numbers denoted the amount of previous convoys in that system.

In August 1939, the Admiralty was made responsible for the control of merchant shipping, but only in designating if and when a ship should sail in a convoy, or if the ship was fast enough, to sail independently.

It decided the course and speed, the rest was left to the civilian Ministry of Shipping (MoS) which later became the Ministry of War Transport

(MoWT). It took responsibility for the destination and cargo of all ships, and had the power to requisition all allied and neutral ships.

The average convoy consisted of between six and nine columns of ships with five ships in each column. The largest convoy ever was HX 300 which had 167 ships sailing in nineteen columns.

The HX series was also the longest running convoy series, starting from September 16, 1939 with HX 1, and finishing with HX 358 on May 23, 1945; in all there were 452 different convoy series throughout the war.

The month of January in years 1940-45:

On January 29, 1940, the Leo Dawson, a British steam merchant ship, was torpedoed by the Kreigsmarine U-37, all 35 crew were lost.

Her Chief Officer was William Morgan aged 50, a son of William Harris Morgan and Deborah Morgan, and husband of Ivy Morgan, who lived in Barry.

The following new year saw, on January 5, 1941, the SS Shakespear on passage from Barry for Alexandria, shelled by the Italian submarine Comandante Alfredo Cappellini. It sunk with 20 dead, the 22 survivors including the captain, abandoned ship into their boats, and afterwards the submarine delivered the 'coupe de grace' and sank the burning vessel.

Those recorded as lost from the local area were Gustav Arthur Blamander, William Burke, Thomas Roy Cridland, Frederick John Goodfellow and Frederick Jansson.

Frederick John Goodfellow was a mess room boy aboard the SS Shakespear. He died when he was 17 the son of William ('his loving father') and Agnes Florence Goodfellow ('his loving mother'), and brother to Minnie.

Later the same month, the Almeda Star was on route from Liverpool to the River Plate when on January 17, 1941 she was torpedoed by German submarine U 96 and sunk; 360 lives were lost. The number 'U-96' is relative of 'Das Boot' fame.

Locals lost were Thomas Orpheus Lewis, aged 28, and Edwin Griggs, second engineer officer, aged 38, husband of Hilda Margaret Griggs of Barry.

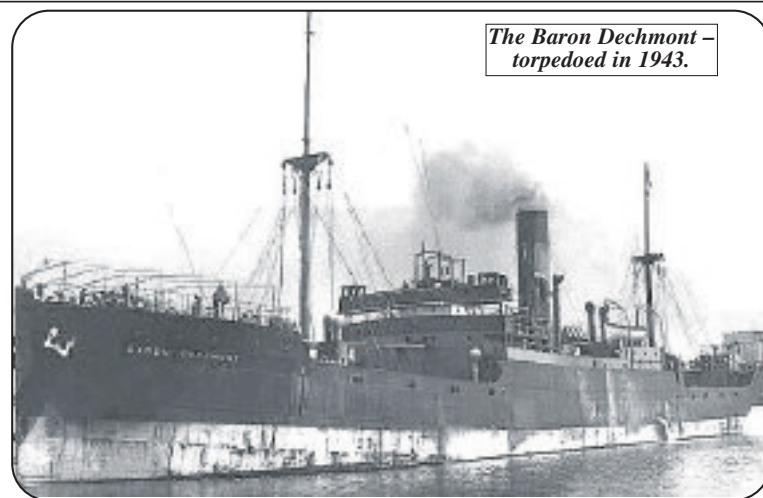
Again during the first month of 1941, the steam ship Homeside was sailing from Pelel to the Tees with a cargo of iron ore in convoy SL.62 and was probably straggling.

The last reported position was 43.52N 18.40W on January 28, 1941.

The circumstances of her loss remain unknown. There were no survivors. Two local men were lost, James Campbell, the third officer, aged 24, and the cook Harry Smith, aged 57.

In the first month of 1942, January 7 saw the demise of the Caledonian Monarch.

She straggled from station No.52 in convoy SC-63 and was reported missing.



The Baron Dechmont – torpedoed in 1943.



**ABOVE:
The spectacle of a convoy preparing for its journey.**

No traces of the ship or her crew were ever found and she was considered lost either to enemy action or marine causes on January 14.

The master, 41 crew members and four gunners were lost. Leonard Wilson, from Barry, an apprentice, remained with the ship and his crew mates and it sank.

The SS Baron Dechmont was a 3,675 ton British Cargo Steamer.

On January 3, 1943 she was on route from Barry and Milford Haven for Pernambuco when she was torpedoed by German submarine U-507 and sunk.

Her captain was taken and became a prisoner of war. Among those lost from Barry were Michael Buckley, a 'donkeyman', aged 26, son of James and Julia Buckley, of Kinsale, Co. Cork, Irish Republic, husband of Eileen Buckley, of Barry, Glamorgan; Bertie George Burge, fireman and trimmer, aged 22; Percival Burnett, greaser, aged 25; Robert Samuel Hortop, carpenter, aged 35, son of John Richard and Alice Hortop, of Barry, husband of Elizabeth Hortop, of Barry; Frederick Lean, fireman and trimmer, aged 59; Norman Reeves, fireman and trimmer, aged 21, son of George Worthy Reeves and Lilian Maud Reeves, of Barry Island.

The British Dominion MV was a British Motor Tanker on January 11, 1943, was on route from Curaçao-Trinidad-Gibraltar in Convoy TM-1 as a straggler, and carrying a cargo of 9,000 tons of aviation spirit, when she was torpedoed by German submarine U-522 and damaged.

The abandoned wreck was later sunk by German submarine U-620 with gunfire.

A total of 33 crew members and four gunners were lost. The master, 10 crew members and five gunners were picked up by the British corvette HMS Godetia (K 226) (Lt A.H. Pierce OBE) and landed at Gibraltar.

Among those not to return home were John Thomas Aistrope, boatswain/bosun, aged 32, son of George and Alice Aistrope, husband of Marion Florence Aistrope, of Barry; Daniel Barry, able seaman, aged 29, son of Laurence and Jemima Barry, husband of S F Barry, of Barry Docks; Michael Carabott; Charles John Chislett, aged 37, son of Charles and May Chislett, husband of Ivy Alexandria Chislett, of Barry; William Desmond McAlinden, aged 35, son of William McAlinden, and of L. McAlinden, of Frankton Junction, Auckland, New Zealand; Samuel W Taylor, aged 29; David Patrick Tobin, aged 38, husband of Margaret Tobin, of Liverpool; and Alfred Toland, aged 36, a fireman and greaser; his death is recorded as January 10, 1943.

The Empire Housman, January 5, 1944...



The Merchant Navy monument that commemorates men from the Vale.

On December, 1943, U-545 (Mannesmann) fired four torpedoes at the convoy ON-217 in 60°30N/24°35W and heard four detonations.

Mannesmann claimed hits on four ships and observed one ship sinking on January 1. However, the only ship hit was Empire Housman (master David John Lewis), which did not sink after this attack.

At 03.55 hours on January 3, 1944, the Empire Housman, now straggling from the convoy, was hit by two torpedoes from U-744 and foundered two days later.

One crew member was lost. The master, 37 crew members and seven gunners were picked up. Ashbury was launched at West Hartlepool in 1924 as the 'Nitedal'.

A year later she was the 'Cairnhill'. In 1935 she was bought by 'the flying bug line', the Alexander Shipping Line, which used a busy bee on its blue house flag.

It renamed the vessel Ashbury. On January 8, 1945, 42 persons on board drowned when she ran aground in a gale.

Except for the war conditions under which she was compelled to sail, the SS Ashbury would not have left Loch Ewe.

Among those who died were James Ivor Morgan, second officer, aged 51, the son-in-law of William Ingli James and Ellen Augusta James, husband of Alma Glencoe James, of Barry; William Robert Locke, senior ordinary seaman, aged 17, son of William and Florence Locke, of Barry.

British Merchant seamen faced up to the horrors of war with courage and composure.

JIM GREENWAY

Paralympic sport on offer in local youth centres...

THE Paralympic sport of boccia can now be played at several youth centres – after new equipment was bought with funding from Sport Wales' Community Chest scheme.

A £1,484.18 grant has been awarded to the Vale Council's Youth Service to give youngsters a chance to try their hand at the game, which is a cross between petanque and bowls.

The boccia sets are available to be used by the youngsters who attend various groups at the following centres: Ysgol Maes Dyfan Youth Club, Colwinston and Wick Youth Club, Byrd Crescent in Penarth, Murchfield in Dinas Powys, Area 41 in Barry and Llantwit Major Youth Centre.

The council's youth service applied for the grant after seeing the impact made by the London 2012 Games.

The youth service's inclusion and development manager, Tina Simmons, said: "Following the success of the Paralympics, and the raised profile of sports such as boccia, I am pleased that we were successful with our community chest application which enabled us to buy boccia equipment. This

will allow all of our youth service members the opportunity to develop their skills and participate in inter-club competitions, whatever their needs."

Boccia is a fun sport that is easy to pick up and can be played by people with disabilities as well as non-disabled people.

Just like bowls it involves players throwing balls as close as they can towards a white target ball, also known as the jack. It became a Paralympic sport in 1984 and is played in over 50 countries worldwide.

POSITIVE

Delighted with how the new equipment could help raise awareness of disability sport among local young people, Simon Jones, the Vale Council's disability sport Wales development officer, said: "Boccia can be played by anyone and I am very pleased that the Youth Services have made it possible to play a Paralympic sport in several youth centres across the county."

"I am also pleased that the Paralympics have had such a positive effect in the Vale, leading to new opportunities such as this for disabled and non-disabled people to participate in sport together." Supporting grass-roots sport

for over a decade, Sport Wales' community chest scheme provides funding of up to £1,500 to sports clubs and organisations in Wales to help them offer high quality opportunities for local people of all ages to take part in sport and physical activity.

The community chest scheme is managed locally by the Vale Council's sports and play development team and is agreed by a panel of volunteers with support from Sport Wales.

The panel meets every three months, and the scheme can provide funding for a variety of purposes. In the latest grant awards more than £25,000 worth of funding was agreed for 21 different sports clubs and organisations.

Among the awards were £1,500 for the Vale District Scout Council to offer archery coaching sessions; £1,500 for the Vale Reds disability football club to set up an under-16s team, and £1,500 for Rhose Lifeguards to offer improved training facilities.

To discuss a potential community chest application for your sports club or organisation, call the Vale Council's sports and play development manager, Karen Davies, on 01446 704793.

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The result was calculated from the Customer Satisfaction returns of nearly 16,000 households across Britain and Ireland - every single customer of every member company for the whole year, with the award being presented by snooker legend Steve Davis at Network VEKA's AGM in Cheshire.

Six times World Champion, Steve, who is also the Brand Ambassador for Network VEKA, told the MPN team, "All Network VEKA members maintain incredibly high standards, so you really are competing against the best of the best. Congratulations."

MPN's Paul Webster collected the trophy and said of the win: "Our reputation is very important to us and we are extremely committed to customer service. It's great to be recognised for all our hard work."

In our photograph, Steve Davis presents the trophy to Paul and Melanie Webster and Paul and Hannah Glastonbury.

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Art celebration of Dyffryn Gardens

AN exhibition of prints by artist Bernard van Lierop, has been opened by the Mayor of Glamorgan, Coun Eric Hacker, at the Travellers Gallery in Barry.

The artist's work was inspired by the changing moods and seasons of Dyffryn Gardens.

He was recently an artist in residence working at Dyffryn with the Vale of Glamorgan Artists (www.voga.org.uk)

His exhibition, 'Prints of Dyffryn Gardens', coincides with the news of the important involvement of the National



Left to right; Bernard van Lierop, the Lady Mayoress, and the Mayor of the Vale.

Trust in the historic house and gardens. Its 50-year lease from the Vale Council bodes well for its future as a tourist attraction and cultural centre.

The Travellers in Mind Café/Gallery is a work experience project

run by Mind in the Vale. It can be found on Platform 1, Barry Station, Broad Street, Barry, CF62 7AE.

The exhibition is jointly run by MIND and VOGA and is open week-day mornings only, until March 7.

BUTCHER'S JOKE PHOTO GOES VIRAL!

A Barry butcher has poked a little fun at one of its giant competitors by placing a sign outside the shop – 'No horsemeat available – try a supermarket'.

The sign was placed outside Vic Hopkins & Son family butchers in High Street and caused a stir with passers-by, and on the internet. Tony Hopkins told THE GEM: "It was an opportunity too good to miss – big time!"

"People have been going past the shop having a real laugh."

"I put it on Facebook and got 457 shares, 887



David having a little fun at Goliath's expense! The sign reads: "No horsemeat available – try a supermarket".

likes and 5,574 hits."

The photograph has been so popular that it was sent onto another site and has got 20,000 hits.



Left to right: Membership officer, Norma Reynolds, Judy James, Linda, and Linda's sponsor, Hilary Laurence.

New member creates a buzz!

AT the recent supper meeting of Soroptimist International, Barry and District, president Linda lives with her husband, Dan, in Barry. She is a keen beekeeper and has two aparies as well as an allotment.

Linda was the first crime scene investigator in Wales, a position she held for 23 years prior to her retirement. To find out more about us visit www.sigbi.org/barry-and-district

MAESTEG EGGHEADS WIN ROTARY'S QUIZ



THE final of the Area-7 Rotary quiz was recently held at The Old House, Llangynwyd, between Maesteg Rotary Club and Swansea Valley Rotary Club. An excellent contest resulted and after the 10 rounds, Maesteg came out on top and retained the area shield, which was donated by Mr and Mrs Viv Gage.

The picture shows the victorious Maesteg team of Norman Boyle, Robert Davies (president) and Allan Reed. Maesteg now look forward to the district final.

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

PARK FRIENDS OFFER THANKS FOR SUPPORT

I WOULD be grateful if you would include this letter in your next edition, to enable us to thank the many people who have supported and contributed to the success of our programme of events in Victoria Park, Barry, in 2012.

A varied programme of free events has seen the number of people attending grow substantially every year over the last four years.

Such events have enabled the Friends of Victoria Park group (formerly the Victoria Park Dog Walkers) to raise money for The Dogs Trust, PDASA, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Cardiff Dogs Home.

Money collected has been raised by selling homemade cakes and refreshments at the events and knitting and selling dog coats.

So, a huge 'thank you' goes to everyone, to people who donated wool and baking ingredients, and to the members of the Friends group and

other individuals who gave their time and energy to help organise and man the events.

A grand total of £3,259.50 was raised, thanks to the people who supported the events by turning up, whatever the weather, to enjoy the entertainment and to buy our wares.

We could not have achieved this fantastic amount were it not for the hard work of John Greatrex, the park manager, and the boys, who worked hard to ensure that the park is at its best

all year round and have readily undertaken the huge amount of donkey work involved in setting things up for the events.

We sincerely hope that the funding for the role of park manager will be upheld in 2013 so that Victoria Park can continue to be the asset it is – not only for the Cadouxton community but for the whole of Barry.

Sian Jones, Barry (Chairperson, Friends of Victoria Park Group)

HAZARDS ON THE ROAD

DRIVE on the Dinas Powys to Barry road every Wednesday night, and it is not only car drivers who should be aware of other road users.

Most Wednesdays, near where a tragic accident occurred last year, I often have to overtake cyclists with a death wish, ie all wearing black hoods, no lights – except maybe a twinkling pedal, and probably headphones on, wandering from side to side.

Also pedestrians walk on the wrong side of the road, their backs to oncoming traffic – again completely in black.

Then there are the cars with fog lights permanently on, reflecting into oncoming traffic, especially when the road is wet and, lastly, taxi drivers overtaking indiscriminately.

(Name and address supplied)

Support sought for 'hydrotherapy' project

LOCAL MP Alun Cairns MP is supporting a bid by Barry residents who aim to build the Woodland Aquatic & Wellbeing Centre – a hydrotherapy pool complex at a disused site on Woodlands Road.

Over recent months, Craig and Natalie O'Shea, and their business partner Sarah Moignard, have met the

Vale MP several times on the site to discuss their intention to create a facility centred around a hydrotherapy pool that will give adults and children suffering from profound physical disabilities the opportunity to experience movement without pain.

The partners say they are now seeking financial support from the Barry Regeneration Scheme, the Waterloo

Foundation and British Gas to add to their own significant financial investment in the project.

Mr Cairns said: "I know that the business partners are committed to using as much locally sourced materials, labour and suppliers as possible throughout the project, which is really positive and will help the economy of Barry too."

Alun Cairns and Craig O'Shea at the proposed site on Woodlands Road.



Regeneration, just the start

THE Minister for Regeneration in Wales, Huw Lewis, met Jane Hutt AM last week to discuss the latest round of regeneration funding announcements and developments.

She reported that the Minister was "positive" about future prospects for the regeneration of Barry, under the first three years of £9m funding announced in March 2010, and that the regeneration was only the beginning.

"He pointed to the fact that Barry is the youngest regeneration area in Wales and as a coastal town this puts

Barry in a favourable position for future Welsh Government funding.

"He was particularly positive about the engagement of the private sector such as the Premier Inn, and was keen to visit Barry again soon to emphasise to the people and businesses of the town they should feel confident about the future."

"His words have been matched with his commitment to £6.5million of funding over the past three years, which has already made a difference across the town, with a further £3.3million announced recently."



Jane Hutt AM and Huw Lewis, Minister for Regeneration, discuss regeneration.

Ty Hafan lottery

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 758.

● £2,000: 279735.

● The rollover, which now stands at £6,000 was not won this week.

● £10: 106591, 812643, 931425, 401818, 399291, 886028, 876940, 321416, 379104, 615539, 685142, 327834, 736096, 526566, 587845, 330296, 176223, 387928, 970797, 764767, 319414.

● £5: 380830, 490564, 138479, 198778, 514046, 864772, 204122, 920914, 274224, 424404, 469497,

325976, 950536, 533994, 413354, 933941, 294214, 586471, 952071, 448362, 648049, 402888, 393545, 351012, 176105, 803948, 842253, 476730, 176657, 609037, 434749, 224578, 543511, 114078, 810226, 246744, 310638, 929100, 168967, 347089, 917084, 567621, 578211, 569240, 490120, 244928, 601739, 657877, 439488, 665815, 976589, 310392, 363802, 841285, 400888, 233101, 633855, 371980, 000407.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2067 2062.

WHAT'S ON /in brief

Sgwrs Cymraeg

MAE grwp sgwrsio Cymraeg yn cwrdd ddydd Iau olaf pob mis o 8.30yn yn Glwb Cymdeithasol y West End, St Nicholas Road, Y Barri. Grwp croesawgar a lla.

P'un a ydych yn rhugl, dysgu neu ddim ond eisiau i ymarfer mae croeso i bawb – am fwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch ag Anna ar 07931849258.

Welsh chat

A WELSH language and chat group meets on the last Thursday of the month from 8.30pm at the West End Social Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry; a welcoming and easy-going group.

Whether you are fluent, learning or just want to brush up, all are welcome – for more information contact Anna on 07931849258.

Shadows Club

THE South Wales Shadows Club meets on February 12, at Penarth Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (029 2030 9979) at 8pm; usually £3, all welcome.

Nearly new sale

NCT Vale and Valleys branch will hold a 'nearly new' sale at Cowbridge Leisure Centre, The Broadboard, Cowbridge, CF71 7DA, on Saturday, March 2, 11am-

12.30pm (doors open 10.45am for NCT members with membership card). Entrance/suggested donation £1 per adult.

Baby/children's clothes, toys, equipment (eg. prams) and maternity wear. Sellers contact Julie on 01656 662564 or email nctnearlynewsales@live.co.uk.

Donations, cakes and raffle prizes gratefully received. Proceeds in aid of The National Childbirth Trust Vale and Valleys branch (formerly Bridgend, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major branch).

Charity ball

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Les Sword, will be holding his charity ball on Friday, April 19, in the Memorial Hall Theatre, Gladstone Road, Barry, at 7pm in aid of Ty Hafan, Children's hospice in Sully and Teenage Cancer Trust, Special Unit at University Hospital Wales, Cardiff.

Tickets, £30, five-course meal, raffle and auction; entertainment from The Jacks and disco.

Tickets from Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry. Contact Julie Hurd, Mayor's secretary, on 01446 704921 or e-mail juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk for more information.

VALE'S 'SKI SLOPES' SEES SLEDGING, WHILE OTHERS PLAY IN THE SNOW

WINTER sports are normally the domain of Switzerland and Austria, but this week saw people taking to the Vale's 'ski slopes'. As you can see from the pictures, the ladies of Aberthyn were keen to show the youngsters that they too were capable of sledging downhill! Elsewhere, people enjoyed the opportunity to build snowmen and throw snowballs.



The Aberthyn ladies take to the slopes!



Amelia (6) and Victoria (19 months) playing in their garden at Wick.



Nine-year-old twins Lowri and Rhianna had great fun sledging!



The Aberthyn boys' downhill race.



FUTURE OF CARDIFF AIRPORT IS RAISED IN HOUSE OF COMMONS

VALE MP Alun Cairns has raised the Welsh Government's planned purchase of Cardiff Airport on the floor of the House of Commons – and called for a positive engagement with international airlines.

During Welsh Questions last week in Westminster, Mr Cairns asked David Jones MP, Secretary of State for Wales, what recent discussions he has held on aviation policy in Wales.

The Minister confirmed that discussions had taken place with Cabinet colleagues and the First Minister about Cardiff Airport, and aviation policy in Wales more generally.

Mr Cairns asked the Secretary of State to help encourage new airlines to consider using Cardiff Airport in order to increase the number of destinations it serves, and to ensure the sustainability of the airport in the future.

Mr Cairns said: "I thought it vital that the Secretary of State for Wales had the proposed purchase of Cardiff Airport by the Welsh Government front of mind."

"I was keen to ensure that the Minister would be proactive in encour-

aging new airlines to consider using Cardiff airport.

"I also stressed the importance of the British Airways Maintenance Centre, which uses the runway. BAMC provides a significant number of jobs and subsequently that local employment helps support many communities in the Vale.

Mr Cairns said that he had concerns about using public funds to buy the airport, saying: "I don't believe that you need to own an airport to support an airport."

"I have previously criticised the Welsh Government for not supporting the airport in the same way as the Scottish Government supports Edinburgh and Glasgow.

"Last month, I took two private investors to see the owners. They were keen to support, but the Welsh Government seems to be squeezing out private interest."

"I have also been talking to an international airline which has exciting prospects for Cardiff and the Vale. The Welsh Government's current actions sends all the wrong messages."

"I will be doing all I can to help support Cardiff airport as it looks to develop and attract airlines and passengers in the future."

GIANT MOTORHOME PROVES TO BE A CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO REMEMBER!

AT Christmas, we wanted to spend a relaxing time together as a family; my wife, Caroline and I planned to whisk her parents away to the Cotswolds for some quality time with little Harriett.

It was going to be idyllic, but it quickly became apparent that transporting five people with copious amounts of luggage in comfort was going to be difficult – and then try booking accommodation over this period. If you could find any, it was very costly.

And so it was that a family of five spent Christmas together under one roof in the Marquis Majestic 180 six-berth motorhome. It was like a Famous Five adventure. What's more we all got on without any arguments. This was a family first.

This behemoth of a vehicle, based on the Peugeot Boxer 2.2-litre diesel van, easily swallowed all our luggage, including Christmas presents, while also providing a comfortable environment for the five of us to safely travel in. Harriett's car seat fitted without issue. Few vehicles on the roads today could actually provide such room without requiring an HGV licence.

Probably the most striking aspect of the 180 was its sheer size and at first it could appear quite daunting to the driver and, indeed, their front passenger.

However, once inside, its size was quickly forgotten as the gutsy diesel engine made light work of the journey. The test took place during countless severe weather warnings across storm-battered Britain.

Despite its six-foot plus height the 180 felt stable as it ploughed through treacherous floods and high winds without complaint.

On the motorway, sixth gear and cruise control maintained a steady 70mph while it returned over 30mpg. More challenging hills, and there were plenty of them in the Cotswolds, required third or even second gear on occasions.

The engine became gradually more raucous

MOTORING with TIM SAUNDERS

under pressure but that was to be expected with its sheer weight.

Driving such a sizeable beast forced the driver to think ahead and perhaps the biggest challenge was parking.

It wasn't simply a matter of finding a space and parking in it as you might a small hatchback. Even if there was a large enough space, the driver needed to anticipate how they would safely manoeuvre both in and out.

For instance, on one occasion I reversed into a sizeable space in a car park. On exiting, if I was in any other vehicle I would simply have swung the steering wheel to the right and safely made my exit.

If I did this in the 180 I would have taken the car to my right with me. It was, therefore, necessary to drive to my left into the far corner of the car park and carefully reverse far enough back to allow me to safely turn right and leave.

It was helpful that there was a rear window (many motorhomes do not have them). Still, I heavily relied on the wing mirrors for reversing.

I recommend ensuring that a reversing camera is fitted for an easier life. We spied a suitable parking space by the side of the road in picturesque Stow-on-the-Wold and promptly squeezed in without issue.

You would think that to exit would simply be a matter of manoeuvring, indicating and leaving, but I was surprised at the number of pedestrians walking round the rear of the motorhome, seemingly oblivious to the fact that I was trying to reverse to avoid clipping the car in front.

The same occurred when Christmas lights, clumsily fitted above a one-way street, had fallen down, making passage even by the smallest cars nigh on impossible without scraping them.

I didn't realise this until they were in my line of vision and so had to perform a u-turn, which was fine as there was plenty of room. The problem was that no cars or indeed pedestrians behind were prepared to wait for me to make this move. We got there in the end – a little while later the police closed the road.

While driving, it was not unusual for other motorists to simply pull out in front of the 180, probably for fear of being stuck behind. This was, of course, completely unjustified as it would keep up with the best of them, if necessary.

The well-appointed motorhome enabled us to be masters and mistresses of our own destiny. No motorway services for us, thank you very much. We enjoyed a civilised lunch in a scenic location whenever we wished.

"It's fitted with two propane gas bottles," explained Ed Stoop, an extremely helpful and enthusiastic salesman at Marquis Motorhomes. "Propane gas doesn't freeze and so it is perfect for camping in cold weather." That gas was well used because it kept the motorhome toasty warm when parked, while also heating water for the shower and providing fuel for cooking.

Overall, it is always a great privilege to drive a Marquis Motorhome and the 180 is the biggest and best of them. It is a house on wheels and it is an incredible feat of engineering.

My mother-in-law summed up the experience: "Excellent, comfy seats and beds, good size fridge and an easy to use cooker. At my time of life, I like my creature comforts when travelling, and it's so handy to have your own toilet and not have to use those dreadful public conveniences."

Watch the videos at www.testdrives.biz
Peugeot 2.2-litre van conversion: New price: from £43,495 OTR; 0-60mph: it will do...; Economy: 32mpg; Power: 120bhp; Top speed: over 100mph.

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Suitable for a single person couple or small family
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• Double glazing
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H4U Reference 1030005
Suitable for a working couple
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CORINTHIAN CLOSE, LLANDOUGH

H4U Reference 1099367
Suitable for a family meeting bedroom tax requirement
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Suitable for a family
• Three-bedroom house
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• Double glazing
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EDWARD STREET, BARRY

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Suitable for a single person couple or small family-no pets
• Two-bedroom flat
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• Double glazing
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GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH

Re advertisement
H4U reference 988824
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
• First-floor studio (no lift)
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Scheme Co-ordinator
• Gardens and parking
Rent £105.45 pw inc. water heating and service charges

HANOVER COURT, DINAS POWYS

H4U reference 1099350
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 (with medical need)
• One-bedroom flat
• First floor
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Manager/Alarm
Rent £109.42 per week including service charge

NORTH WALK, BARRY

H4U reference 218255
Suitable for a single person or couple over 40-no pets
• One-bedroom flat
• First floor
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Water meter
Rent £74.74 pw including water and service charge

PARDOE CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U Reference 219041
Suitable for a family
• Three-bedroom house
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Gardens
Rent £98.39 per week including water charges

POWIS VIEW, BARRY (2)

H4U reference 1098349
Suitable for a single person or couple with one or two children.
• Two-bedroom flats (2)
• Second floor
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Communal gardens
Rent £81.75 per week including service charge

REDLANDS AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U reference 243262
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55-no pets
• One-bedroom flat
• Second floor
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Warden and alarm
Rent £109.95 pw inc water, warden and alarm charges

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Pardoe Crescent	52	Gold	04/07/12
Lan yr Eglwys	28	Gold +	30/05/12
Catherine Massey	21	Silver	08/02/12
Amroth Court	24	Gold	12/07/12
Dylan Crescent	36	Gold +	12/04/11
Portlun Close	24	Silver +	24/05/12
Brecon Court	15	Bronze	06/03/12
Gower Court	18	Bronze	20/07/12
St Cathelines Court	30	Gold	13/07/12
Redlands Avenue	15	Silver +	14/08/12
Stratford Green	25	Gold	29/08/12
St Lukes Avenue	33	Gold +	01/11/11
Ewbank Close	72	Gold	04/05/11
Severn Avenue	18	Silver +	26/04/12
Winfred Avenue	27	Gold +	13/07/11
Chamberlain Row	57	Gold	19/03/12
Andrew Road	54	Gold	15/02/12
Elizabeth Avenue	24	Gold	18/05/12
Carms Corner	32	Gold +	17/01/12

REDLANDS HOUSE, PENARTH (2)

H4U reference 243901
Suitable for a single person over 55-no pets
• Studio apartments (2)
• First floor with lift
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Warden and alarm
Rent £106.17 pw including water and warden charges

SEVERN AVENUE, BARRY

H4U reference 222787
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
• One-bedroom flat
• First floor
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Community alarm
Rent £87.53 pw inc water, warden and alarm charges

ST LUKES AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U reference 245648
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family - no pets
• Two-bedroom flat
• First floor
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Water meter
Rent £71.77 per week

THE WATERFRONT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1093658
Suit for a single person or couple - no pets
• Two-bedroom flat
• Ground floor
• Gas central heating
• Double glazing
Rent £86.14 per week including service charges

WEST WALK, BARRY

H4U Reference 227622
Suitable for a family
• Three-bedroom house
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Gardens
Rent £97.48 per week including water charge

WILLIAMS CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U Reference 228377
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family - no pets
• Two-bedroom flat
• Second floor
• Central heating
• Double glazing
Rent £80.00 pw inc water and sewerage charges

Important information for existing and new council tenants

From April 2013 Housing Benefit Rules are changing for 'working age' tenants who live in Council and Housing Association properties. If you are of pension age this change will not affect you.

Deductions will be made from Housing Benefit claim where a claimant is living in a property that is classed as too large for them. There will be a 14% deduction for one extra bedroom and a 25% deduction for two or more bedrooms.

To calculate room needs for a client, one bedroom is allowed for each of the following:

- every adult couple;
- any other adult aged over 16;
- any two children of the same sex up to age 16;
- any two children regardless of sex aged under 10; or
- any other child.

Foster children are not included in the calculation.

A single person (of working age) living in a two-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

A couple (of working age) living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 25% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

A single parent or couple with a son aged 8 and a daughter aged 6, living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be two bedrooms, so there would be a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit.

A single parent or couple with two daughters, aged 12 and 6, and a son aged 4, living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be three bedrooms, so no deduction would apply.

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.



U3A talk recalls the harsh conditions in Welsh slate industry

NEARLY 90 hardy members of Porthcawl University of the Third Age braved the freezing weather to attend the January speaker meeting at The Rest Hotel, Porthcawl.

The rise and fall of the north Wales slate industry and its barons was the talk given by Cowbridge U3A member Gwerfyl Gardner, who grew up in the area. Slate is a volcanic ash sedimentary rock and has been used for everything from fencing enclosures and gravestones to flooring in St Asaph Cathedral and roofing Boston Airport in America.

It has been exported around the world and at its peak, the industry employed around 17,000 people.

Workers had incredibly hard and often short lives, with 36 per cent dying from lung problems – which the owners would not accept was caused by slate dust – and the harsh working conditions in the Gwynedd mountains.

Slate and coal have similar histories and cultures; both are mined above and below ground and produced extreme wealth for privileged families such as the Assheton-Smiths at Llanberis, the Oakeleys at Maentwrog and the Penrhyn family in Bangor.

All UK school children had a Welsh writing slate and chapels, male voice choirs, brass bands, and debating groups were popular social activities for workers, in stark contrast to the Slate Barons' extravagant lifestyles.

Britain's largest ever industrial dispute, the bitter and infamous three-year lockout of 2,800 men at Lord Penrhyn's Bethesda quarry in 1900, began the slate industry's long decline.

Lord Penrhyn was then the largest landowner in Wales and the irony of the tragedy is that the quarrymen's descendants now own the estate – through the National Trust.

GARY VICTOR

'Watch out for the blue bag throwers'

I am sick and tired of hearing about more instances of dog fouling in the area.

Animal clinics in Boverton, Llantwit Major, Cowbridge and Barry have confirmed to me that all it requires is a licence (similar to those used in the day of licensing by the police) registering all dogs.

A simple injection for a small amount of blood will prove the dog's DNA – end of problem.

There is no way out for the owners. A law giving a minimum fine of £100, plus a further fine of £50, followed each time they break the law by another £50, will soon stop dogs being

READER'S VIEW

allowed to carry on. Either that, or 'DON'T HAVE A DOG'. It's as simple as that!

Blind dog owners are already aware that they are not included.

I would like to thank Vale MP Alun Cairns, who has assisted me to bring the matter to the public, who have also helped to keep up the pressure through The GEM. Let's hope our MP will put pressure to bring in a new law asap.

In the meantime, let us all watch out for the BBT (Blue Bag Throwers).

Alf Ford, Llantwit Major



ABOVE: The school's triumphant chess team.

Nine chess trophies for Howell's School team

CHESS is often thought of as a male sport, but girls at Howell's School, Llandaff (GDST) are challenging the stereotypes and achieving great success.

At the Welsh Junior Girls' Chess Championships at Monmouth on January 13, where large numbers of girls from all over Wales took part, Howell's pupils came away with nine trophies and were winners in four of the six age groups.

Two chess clubs, one for the seniors and one for the junior school, are flourishing under the tutelage of Mr Kevin Thomas.

The girls enjoy the fun, the competitive element and the team spirit engendered when they play together for the school in competitions.

The under-8 competition saw a Howell's clean sweep, with seven-year-olds Venetia Sivarajasingam, from Penylan, Cardiff, the winner, followed by Nayana Kalavala in second place and Nandini Prasad, who both

live in the Heath area, in third.

The under-9s champion was Susanna Fraser (eight), of Llanishen.

In the large under-11 section, Shayanna Sivarajasinga (10) emulated her sister's success in the under-8 category, her victory producing a rare family double triumph.

Alyssa Wang (12), from Whitchurch, who has already represented Wales in international competitions, was the under-14 champion.

Other successes gained were those of Alyssa's sister Emily (nine), who shared second place in the under-10 class with her fellow pupil Neya Govindaraj, also 9 and from Danescourt, and Tahliia Morgan-Rose (11), from Rhiwbina, who was runner-up in the under-12 section.

The youngest trophy winner, Nayana, said: "It was great to play chess. You have to think a lot and I like thinking," while Shayanna enthused: "I enjoy meeting friends at chess and making new ones."

Snow does not deter walkers!

DUE to the weather conditions, it was decided to revise the scheduled walk that was to take place in the Brecon and Llanfrynach area – instead, the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers met at Pontyclun car park for a local walk.

Leaving the car park, the conditions were very slippery underfoot, but we continued slipping and sliding as we went on our way, a spokesperson reports.

Proceeding along the

road for a while, we eventually made our way up the road towards Llantrisant Forest. While it was lovely walking in the powdery snow, it was also hard work, both on the legs and the lungs.

We continued walking upwards through some fields, but we had to make our way back to the road to continue on our way. We made our way up through the forest, using the clear tracks.

The two stops allowed us to have our coffee and lunch breaks looking at the views that were afforded to us.

Although not a sunny day, the sky was clear enough for us to see for miles.

Walking across fields that had not been walked, having to cope with the deep snow in some parts, was hard work but worth it for the views.

Making our way back into the forest, we made our way following the road back down to Talbot Green, and back to Pontyclun, picking up the path along the Afon Clun, back to the village of Pontyclun.

Our thanks to Helen Fletcher and Del Rees for leading us on this lovely walk.

Further information regarding the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers can be found on the website on www.valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk/

MP joins bee fight

Vale MP Alun Cairns recently joined a giant 'bumble bee' and campaigners from Friends of the Earth to draw attention to the alarming decline in UK bee numbers.

He was one of more than 125 MPs to show their support after Friends of the Earth launched its 'Bee Cause' campaign, backed by more than 80,000 people, which calls for the Government to introduce a National Bee Action Plan aimed at saving the bees.

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Vale of Glamorgan
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GROVE ESTATES



CHURCH COTTAGE, RHOOSE

- A beautifully maintained & extended 3 bedroom semi detached property
- Original cottage dating back to around early 19th century & extended in approx 1980's
- Generously proportioned grounds to rear
- Parking for approx 5-6 cars & a balcony accessed from main bedroom with views over Rhooose
- The property is being sold as freehold & open to reasonable offers

£265,000



BASSETT STREET, BARRY

- A good size 3 bedroom mid terrace property close to town centre
- Gas central heating & double glazed throughout
- Low maintenance garden to rear
- Ideal first time purchase
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain.

£93,950



CHARLOTTE PLACE, BARRY

- A 3 bedroom bay fronted property situated close to transport links
- Walking distance to town, schools & local amenities
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Property is being sold as vacant & would make an ideal investment/first time purchase.

£95,000



LLAN FARM, MERTHYR DYFAN ROAD, BARRY

- An extended 5 bedroom detached property dating back to approx 1700's
- Landscaped front & rear gardens set on approx 1/3 of an acre
- Set in a quiet semi-rural location
- Off road parking with double garage
- Gas central heating & double glazed

£275,000



PLAS ESSYLLT, SUNNYCROFT LANE, DINAS POWYS

- Immaculately presented 2 bedroom 1st floor maisonette
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Private front & rear gardens
- Balcony with views over Dinas Powys towards Llandough
- Off road parking to front
- Set on no through road, offering short walk to semi-rural woodlands

£119,500



BRYN AWEL, BUTTRILLS ROAD, BARRY

- A 4 bedroom detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Detached garage & driveway
- Spacious gardens
- Views across Bristol channel

£244,950



SOUTH WALK, BARRY

- A good size 3 bedroom mid link property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Front & rear gardens
- Ideal first time purchase
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£94,950



REDBERTH CLOSE, BARRY

- A 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow situated in a quiet cul-de-sac location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Private parking & driveway to front
- Conservatory
- Scope to extend subject to planning
- Viewings recommended

£127,500



MOREL STREET, BARRY

- A well presented 3 double bedroom property in popular location of Barry
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Enclosed garden to rear
- Some original features remain
- Open to reasonable offers

£105,000

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Kingsland Crescent -
1 Bedroom 1st floor flat in central location. GCH. DG. Unfurnished £430 pcm

Abingdon Street -
3 Bedroom property. GCH. DG. Unfurnished £575 pcm

Castle Road, Rhooose -
2 Bedroom 1st floor flat. GCH. DG. Unfurnished £475 pcm

George Street -
3 Bedroom property. GCH. DG. Furnished £550 pcm

Lombard Grange -
2 Bedroom 1st floor flat. GCH. DG. Unfurnished £450 pcm

Church Road -
3 Bedroom property. GCH. DG. Unfurnished £525 pcm

Merthyr Street -
3 bedroom property. GCH. DG. Unfurnished £575 pcm

Barry Road -
3 Bedroom ground floor flat. GCH. DG. Unfurnished £525 pcm

Broad Street -
2 Bedroom 1st floor flat. GCH. DG. Unfurnished. £425 pcm

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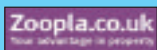
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CLIVE ROAD, BARRY ISLAND
Mid terrace property. Entrance porch, living room/dining room. Two bedrooms. Sea views from front elevation. Double glazed. Gas central heating. Rear garden. No chain. Viewing advised.
£111,500



LANGLANDS ROAD, BARRY
Three bedrooms. Semi detached. Through living room, utility area/cloakroom. Spacious plot. Room to extend (subject to usual planning consent). No chain. Vacant possession.
£129,950



THE GROVE, BARRY
Spacious living accommodation. Edwardian mid terrace. Constructed in approx 1890. Original features throughout. Living/dining room, fitted kitchen, sitting room. Two bathrooms.
£227,500



WESTWARD RISE, BARRY
In need of some modernisation. Three bedrooms. Semi detached. Two reception rooms. Garage/driveway. Sea views from rear. Enclosed laid to lawn garden. Walks to beaches. No chain.
£185,000



FONMON PARK ROAD, BARRY
Modern detached. Cloakroom/wc, living room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, dining room, master with ensuite. Level enclosed rear garden. Driveway/garage, side access. upvc DG, gas CH. Viewing essential.
£164,950



HEOL CORSWIGEN, BARRY
Modern detached. Three bedrooms, wc/cloakroom, living room, dining room. Fitted kitchen/breakfast. Master with ensuite. Private enclosed garden. Raised deck sun terrace.
£184,950



OLD MILL ROAD, BARRY
Spacious elevated. Four bedrooms, ensuite. Semi detached. Through living room, kitchen with integrated appliances. Enclosed rear garden. Side access. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi.
£149,950



LYDSTEP ROAD, BARRY
Corner positioned. Semi detached. Entrance hallway. Three bedrooms, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen. Garage/parking. Side access leading to enclosed rear tiered garden.
£124,950



TRINITY STREET, BARRY
Three bedrooms. Mid terrace traditional, entrance hallway, wc/cloakroom, living room, fitted kitchen, level enclosed garden. West End location. Gas central heating.
£119,950



HOLLYWOOD CLOSE, BARRY
Showhome presented. Refurbished to high standard. Two bedrooms, semi detached. Replacement kitchen and shower room. Driveway/garage. Enclosed rear garden. Well presented. Cul de sac position.
£129,950



HOLMES STREET, BARRY
Well presented. Mid terrace. Two double bedrooms. Refurbished throughout. Rewired, replumbed. Luxury kitchen and bathroom. Through living room. Utility/cloakroom. Enclosed garden.
£94,950



MAIN STREET, BARRY
End of terrace traditional dwelling. Three bedrooms. Entrance hallway. Through living/dining room. Ground floor bathroom. In need of modernising. Enclosed rear garden.
£69,950



MELROSE STREET, BARRY
Three bedrooms, semi detached. Living room, open plan kitchen/diner, upstairs bathroom. Enclosed garden. Raised decked sun terrace leading to further level area. Driveway providing parking.
£116,950



THE PASTURES, BARRY
Three bedrooms, semi detached. Entrance hallway. Living room - dining area. Driveway leading to garage. Enclosed rear garden. upvc DG. Gas CH. No chain. Driveway leading to garage.
£123,000



BROAD CLOSE, BARRY
Maintenance free. Ground floor. Living room. Modern fitted kitchen. Integrated appliances. Two double bedrooms. Sun terrace overlooking communal gardens. Garage/designated parking. No Chain.
£112,000



AMHERST CRESCENT, BARRY
Ground floor apartment. One double bedroom. Fitted kitchen/integrated Smeg appliances. Enclosed rear garden. upvc DG. Gas CH. Security door entry system. Mins walk to beaches Lane access.
£69,950



ST OSYTH COURT, BARRY
Placed on the upper ground. Two bedrooms. Through living room. In need of some modernising. parking space. Balcony with sea views, partial upvc and gas CH via combi. No chain.
£152,500



COURTLANDS, BARRY
First floor studio apartment. Open plan: living room, kitchen and bedroom. Separate bathroom, communal door entry. Maintenance free living. No chain. Security entry system.
£59,950

APARTMENTS



SEALAWNS, BARRY
Far reaching sea views across the Knap and Bristol Channel. Well presented. Second floor apartment. living room, two bedrooms, kitchen, shower room, garage/parking. Viewing recommended.
£124,950



YEW TREE COURT, BARRY
Third floor apartment. Modern kitchen and bathroom. Well presented. Two bedrooms. Balcony overlooking Romilly park. Fitted kitchen, spacious living room. Parking. Views across Bristol Channel.
£114,950



BLACKWELL CLOSE, BARRY
Mid terrace. Three bedrooms, upvc double glazing, gas central heating via combi. Garage in block. Enclosed rear garden. Ideal first time buy. No chain. Close to shops, schools, cul de sac position.
£94,950



BROAD STREET, BARRY
Bay fronted. Four bedrooms. Mid terrace traditional. Three reception rooms, Channel views from first floor. West End location. Enclosed garden/garage. Ideal family home.
£147,950



BELL STREET, BARRY
Two bedroomed. Traditional mid terrace. Living/dining room, kitchen, wc cloakroom. Front, side and rear gardens. Entrance hallway. Living, dining and conservatory. Driveway/garage. Swimming pool, upvc DG, Gas CH.
£108,950



BASSETT STREET, BARRY
In need of some modernising. Benefiting from replacement boiler, bathroom suite and grant work. Mid terrace traditional. Three bedrooms, upstairs bathroom. Living room and dining room. Garage/Lane access.
£84,950

INVESTMENT



MILTON, BARRY
Stunning mid terrace. Two bedrooms. Living room, kitchen/diner. Enclosed rear garden. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Option of off road parking (subject to usual planning consent).
£94,950



TENNYSON ROAD, BARRY
Three bedroomed mid linked traditional. Well presented. Entrance hallway, living room, fitted kitchen/diner, family bathroom, separate wc. Enclosed rear garden. Easy access to link road.
£102,500



WOODHAM PARK, BARRY
Modern mid link situated in cul de sac position. Entrance hallway, fitted kitchen. Two bedrooms. Living room with stairs rising. Enclosed garden, parking to front. No chain. Tenant wants to remain.
£109,950



HOLTON ROAD, BARRY
Two storey. End of terrace traditional. Ideal investment. Split into two flats with separate utilities and to fire regulations. Having an income of approx £11,000 per annum.
£114,950



CONWAY DRIVE, BARRY
Three bedroomed. Semi detached. Front, side and rear gardens. Entrance hallway. Living, dining and conservatory. Driveway/garage. Swimming pool, upvc DG, Gas CH.
£189,950



EAST WALK, BARRY
Extended semi detached. Spacious 23ft lounge, sitting room, kitchen, utility room. Four bedrooms. Garage and driveway. Enclosed rear garden. upvc DG. Gas CH. Spacious living throughout.
£164,950

SEMI DETACHED



COLLEGE PLACE, BARRY
Three bedrooms. Semi detached property. West End location. Extensive views from rear. Off road parking. Gas CH via combi boiler. upvc DG. Viewing advised.
£146,950



VICTORIA PARK ROAD, BARRY
Three storey semi detached. GF: Living/dining room, fitted kitchen, sun lounge, balcony. Lower GF: One bedroom, hobby room, showerroom/kitchen. Additional living room. 1st floor: 3 further beds, bathroom.
£179,950



WELL WALK, BARRY
Situated on the Knap. Three bedrooms, semi detached, cul de sac position. Walks to beaches. Three reception rooms, wc, cloakroom. Luxury bathroom. Viewing highly recommended.
£299,950



LON FFERM FELIN, BARRY
Modern detached. Four bedrooms, two separate living rooms, utility room, wc cloak, conservatory. Private enclosed level garden. Garage/driveway. Purpose made paths leading to country park.
£249,950



TAF CLOSE, BARRY
Modern detached. Two reception rooms. WC cloak, kitchen/diner, ensuite shower, three bedrooms, driveways/garage. No chain.
£179,950



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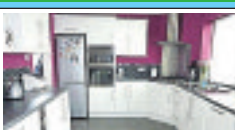
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Anniversary

NORTHWAY
Eunice & Bill
Diamond Wedding Anniversary
January 24, 2013
Congratulations - 60 happy years together!
With love from all of your family xxx

Lost & Found

LOST
Beautiful Persian cross Chinchilla Cat. Silver/Grey/White.
She is a house cat and has never been outside. No collar. Name is Star. Got shut out of house by accident on 15th January in Four Acre area of Llantwit Major. Reward if found.
Contact 07972 641588

MISSING ELLA
Light brown female adult Lurcher. Well loved family pet. Went missing from the Llantwit Major and Llandow Racetrack area on Friday 18th January.
Contact 01446 792320 or 07730 413364

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News, Sport, Letters, Features, What's On, Jobs, Motors....

Birthdays

STEPHANIE (Jones)
Happy 16th Birthday
(24 January 2013)
Love Gran & Grampy XXX

Family Notices

DAVIES
Catherine Gertrude (Cathy)
On January 16th, peacefully at Eleanor Hodgson House, Caerleon, Cathy, aged 99 years, late of Llantwit Major and Aberkenfig. Beloved wife of the late Ken Davies, Llantwit Major. Loving mother to Jeff and his wife Chris, dearly loved Nanna to Clare and Nick, Rhian and Chris, Amy and Graham and to her great grandchildren Emily, Joseph, Abigail, Sophie, Elliot and Lily.
Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the Funeral Service on Thursday, 31st January 2013 at 1pm followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 2.15pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Eleanor Hodgson House Residents Fund c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only).

SAUNDERS
Peter
Suddenly on January 15 at UHW, Cardiff, Peter (Pete) of Barry, dearly loved husband of Margaret, devoted father and father-in-law of Lee and Sam, Christian and Emma, much loved Bampy of Cole Ali, Kegan Lee, Rio Samuel, Morgan, Myles and Max.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon, Fommon, Funeral Friday January 25, service 3.45pm at All Saints Church, Barry followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 4.30pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Headway c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.
No mourning attire necessary, at the family's request please wear football/rugby shirts or bright colours.

THOMAS
Kathleen May
Peacefully on January 20 at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry, Kath of Llantwit Major. Beloved wife of the late Reg, dearly loved mother of Glyn, David, Paul and Jonathan, much loved mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon, Fommon, Funeral Monday January 28, service 2pm at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major followed by interment in Llantwit Major Cemetery.
Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Cancer Research Wales c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

DAVY
Dorothy Bertha
Suddenly on January 10 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Dorothy, in her 93rd year, of Llantwit Major. Beloved wife of the late Harold, loving mother of Peter, Carole, Jean and Diana.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon, Fommon, Funeral Friday January 25, service 12.30pm at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major followed by interment in Llantwit Major Cemetery.
Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home or donations to St Illtud's Church will be gratefully received by Rev H Butler, The Rectory, Cowbridge Road, Llantwit Major CF61 1SS.

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Public Notices

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
NOTICE OF MAKING DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER
SECTION 53 OF THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
THE DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE FORMER COUNTY OF SOUTH GLAMORGAN RELEVANT DATE 14th SEPTEMBER 1954.
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012 (No. DMO/53/379)
The above order made on 2nd October 2012, if confirmed as made, will modify the definitive map and statement for the area by adding to there a footpath from Romilly Park Road to Public Footpath 72E at rear of 39 Perth-Y-Castell, Barry.
A copy of the order and the order map may be seen free of charge at the address below between 9.00am and 4.00pm on weekdays. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at a price of £4.50.
Any representation or objection relating to the order must be sent in writing to the Director of Development Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Sulway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than 7 March 2013 and applicants are requested to state the grounds on which it is made.
If no representations or objections are duly made to the order, or to any part of it, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may, instead of submitting the order to the Welsh Government, itself confirm the order. If the order is submitted to the Welsh Government, any representations and objections, which have been duly made and not withdrawn, will be sent with the order.
Dated 24th January 2013

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
RHYBUDD O WNEUD GORCHYMYN
AR GYFER ADDASU MAP SWYDDOGOL
ADRAN 53 DEDDF BYWYD GWYLLT A CHEFN GWLAD 1981
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
Y MAP SWYDDOGOL A'R DATGANIAD AR
GYFER HEN SIR
DDE MORGANNWG - DYDDIAD
PERTHNASOL: 14 MEDI 1954.
GORCHYMYN ADDASU MAP SWYDDOGOL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2012
(DMO/53/379)
Bydd y gorchymyn uchod a wneud ar 2 Hydref 2012, o'i gadarnhau, yn addasu'r map swyddogol a'i datganiad ar gyfer yr ardal dan sylw, drwy ychwanegu llwybr troed a fydd yn ymestyn o Romilly Park Road hyd at Lleyr Cymoeddus 72E y tu ôl i 39 Perth y Castell, Y Barri.
Cewch weld copi o'r gorchymyn a'r map yn rhad ac am ddim yn y cyfeirnod isod rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm yn ystod yr wythnos. Bydd copïau o'r map a'r gorchymyn ar werth yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.
Dylech gymwys unrhyw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau sydd gennych i'r gorchymyn mewn llythyr, a'i anfon at Gyfeirwydder Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Dockau, Dockau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT etym 7 Mawrth 2013, gan nodi'r rhesymau dros eich ymateb.
Os na ddaw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i lawr y cyfeirnod i'r gorchymyn mewn llythyr, neu os caiff y rheol a dderbyniwyd eu tynnu'n ôl, bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg ynau'n rhydd i gadarnhau'r gorchymyn heb ei anfon i Lywodraeth Cymru. Os caiff y gorchymyn ei anfon i Lywodraeth Cymru, bydd y sylwadau a'r gwrthwynebiadau nae tynnwyd yn ôl, yn cael eu hanfon ar yr un pryd.
Dyddiad 24 Ionawr 2013

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
NOTICE OF MAKING OF AN ORDER (OTHER THAN AN ACQUISITION EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER)
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 11 ST LYTHANS
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2012
The above order, made on the 7th day of December 2012, under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, will divert Public Footpath No 11 St Lythans from the alignment A-B-C-D to the alignment E-F-G-H-I-J-K-L-D as shown on the order map.
A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at The Dock Office, Barry Dock, Barry, CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.
Any representations about or objections to the order may be sent in writing to the Director of Development Services, Dock Office, Barry Dock, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 21st day of February 2013. Please state the grounds on which they are made.
If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may confirm the order as an unopposed order. If the order is sent to the Welsh Government for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the order.
Dated this 24th day of January 2013

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
RHYBUDD O WNEUD GORCHYMYN (AC
EITHRIO GORCHYMYN DIDOYMU HAWLIAU
O DAN DEDDF CAFFAEU TIR)
DEDDF PRIFYRDO 1980
LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 11 LLWYNELIDDON
GORCHYMYN GWYRO LLWYBR
CYHOEDDUS 2012
Bydd y gorchymyn uchod a wneud ar 7 Rhagfyr 2012, o dan adran 119 o Deddf Prifffyrdd 1980, yn pwyso Lleyr Cymoeddus 11 yn Llywneliddon drwy newid y cyfeirnod a B-C-D i E-F-G-H-I-J-K-L-D fel y gwelir ar y map perthnasol.
Mae copi o'r gorchymyn a'r map wedi'i ddarparu, a cheir ei weld yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Dockau, Dockau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT yn ystod oriau swyddfa refferol. Bydd copïau o'r map a'r gorchymyn ar werth am £4.50 yr un.
Dylech gymwys unrhyw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau sydd gennych i'r gorchymyn mewn llythyr, a'i anfon at Gyfeirwydder Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Dockau, Dockau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT etym 21 Chwefror 2013, gan nodi'r rhesymau dros eich ymateb.
Os na ddaw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i lawr, neu os caiff y rheol a dderbyniwyd eu tynnu'n ôl, bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn rhydd i gadarnhau bod y gorchymyn yn ddilysrheidiol. Os caiff y gorchymyn ei anfon i Lywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer ei gadarnhau, bydd y sylwadau a'r gwrthwynebiadau nae tynnwyd yn ôl, yn cael eu hanfon ar yr un pryd.
Dyddiad 24 Ionawr 2013

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Vale countryside takes on a different look as snowfall blankets the rural landscape



THE snow that fell on the Vale provided a pretty complete blanket, although there were isolated spots that escaped, as the photograph (right) from Stalling Down looking across to Aberthin shows.

Higher up, on the Downs, the snow cover was much more even, as the picture, left shows.

See next week for more snow photos in The GEM.



PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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Visit our studio in the Wool Barn,
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ABOVE: Snow on the thatched roof of the Bush Inn, St Hilary.



ABOVE: St Hilary Church – looking like a Christmas card!

Mari Lwyd brought to life by ice image in window..!



LEFT:

There is a famous movie scene* where a man wakes up to find a horse's head in his bed...

For Cowbridge resident, Rosemary Samuel, it was somewhat less gruesome, as she woke to find this image of a horse's head on her upstairs window, and sent it to The GEM.

Rosemary said: "It was almost as if the Mari Lwyd was passing."

* The movie? The Godfather, Part One – of course!



ABOVE: Keeping the sheep fed and watered in Cowbridge.



ABOVE: A slightly surreal scene on Stalling Down.

BARRY'S ACTORS, AUTHORS, MUSICIANS, MEN OF LETTERS - AND MOVIE STARS!

THERE are a great number of writers and theatrical personalities with Barry connections, some more tenuous than others.

Bob Hope only stayed in Barry for a short while before joining his father in America, but his mother had Barry connections. Author Leslie Thomas' only claim to Barry residency was that his parents came from Barry and that he used to visit his aunt and uncle in the town on a regular basis.

A number that I recall I have not attempted to write about - one minute they seemed to be in every play or singing in every musical or group, and next they disappear from view not too be seen or heard from again.

Here are some I have tracked down:

Roger Livesey - Actor Born in Holton Road in June 1906 the son of Sam and Mary Livesey, he was educated at Holton Road School and Westminster City School, London.

He first appeared at St James Theatre, London at the age of 11 as an office boy in the stage play *Loyalties* in 1917, and went on to appear in plays by Shakespeare, in comedies and other roles in West End Theatres.

Roger came from an old established theatre family; both his brothers Jack and Barrie were also actors, and his father Sam was carried onto the stage at the age of nine months by his father to take part in the play *The Sea*.

When Margaret Lindsay Williams, the Barry artist, needed a model for one of her famous pictures *The Man of Sorrows* she asked Roger Livesey to pose for it.

In the early 1930s he toured many countries overseas, appearing in South Africa and the West Indies until he returned to join the Old Vic/Sadlers Wells Company.

In 1936, while appearing in New York in *The Country Wife* he married Ursula Jeans.

In 1939 he volunteered as a pilot for the RAF, but was turned down as being too old, and went to work in an aircraft factory near Leicester.

In 1943 he played the lead role in *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp* and continued to appear in films and many stage plays until his death in 1969.

Noel Johnson - Actor Born in December 1916 and educated at Bromsgrove School, Worcester. In 1939 he volunteered and joined the RASC and went to France with the British Expeditionary Force where he was wounded and evacuated from Dunkirk.

After spending over a year in hospital, he was invalided out in 1941. In 1945 he joined the BBC Repertory Company and in October 1946 was given a trial run of six programmes of what was later to become almost a must for listeners of BBC's Light Programme.

At 6.45 pm each evening, at the sound of *The Devil's Gallop*, the streets across the country emptied of children who had rushed home to listen to that night's episode of *Dick Barton Special Agent*. These children were later joined by their parents in listening to the programme which gave the BBC a listening audience of over 15 million.

Noel Johnson, together with Alex McCrindle (Jock) and John Mann (Snowey), starred in the programme until 1949. 'Dick Barton's' real identity was kept secret until 1947, when it was revealed as...Noel Johnson.

As audience figures in that year reached nearly 16 million, he began to feel that he was being

underpaid and asked for a rise, which the BBC refused and replaced him with Duncan Carse.

In 1951, he was approached by Radio Luxembourg to play the part of 'Dan Dare' - the hero of the *Eagle* comic. The series ran five days a week for five years. Although he starred in the production, his name never appeared in the cast list.

Apart from his radio work, he also appeared in a number of films including *Highly Dangerous*, *Appointment with Venus*, *Little Red Monkey* and *Alfred Hitchcock's Frenzy*, and in a number of television programmes, the last being *A Touch of Frost* in 1997.

Noel who died in 1999, lived for many years at Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys, and his house was one of the attractions of the village for his many young fans.

Keith Baxter (Baxter-Wright) - Actor. Born in 1931, and educated at Barry County School. In the Easter term of 1951, he began his acting career by appearing in that year's school play *Lady Precious Stream*, a Chinese play by S I Hsiung, where he took the part of Hsie Ping Kuei and Synglitiki Angelinakis played Precious Stream.

The local critic who saw the performance said: "...that there is a tremendous talent in both and they played their parts in flawless sense of what was right and fitting on stage." (Roger Livesey also scored a great success in the West End with his performance as the gardener-prince in the same play).

In his last year at the school, he was appointed head prefect and on leaving he studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and became a friend of Alan Bates.

He made his acting debut in London in 1957 in *Tea and Sympathy*. In 1962 he appeared on the Broadway stage as the King in *The Man for All Seasons* and together with Robert Redford and Brenda Vaccaro won the "Most Promising Newcomers to Broadway".

His first major break into the theatre came in 1964 when he auditioned for Orson Welles in the Albery Theatre. He was one of a great many actors who were auditioning; most of them had more experience than he had.

As an audition piece he chose an extract from Emylin Williams play *The Wind of Heaven*. He always said that Orson Welles was probably tired of hearing extracts from *Hamlet*, *Henry V* and other Shakespearean plays and that his audition piece was probably like a "breath of fresh air" to him.

After the audition, Orson Welles selected him to play Prince Hal - Falstaff's companion and later his betrayer in the Orson Welles' stage production of *Chimes at Midnight*, and in 1965 to appear in the film of the same name.

In 1970 he played Milo in *Slouch* with Anthony Quayle, which won that year's "Tony Award" for the best play. In his career, which spanned over 40 years, he has performed in classical theatre, on stages all over the world, appearing with among others Maggie Smith, Joan Collins and Elizabeth Taylor.

Bob Hope (Leslie Townes Hope) was born in Eltham on May 29, 1903 to William Henry and Avis Townes Hope; he was the fifth of seven sons. His father was a stone mason from Weston-super-Mare who moved around the country from job to job. He came to Barry to work on the building of the docks where met his wife. He left to work in Newport and from there went to work in Eltham, near London where Leslie was born.

To his father, the grass was

always greener on the other side of the hill; in 1905 he emigrated to Cleveland, Ohio to work as a stonemason.

The family moved back to Barry and lived in Greenwood Street for a short while before joining him in America in 1907.

His mother had a good voice and before her marriage was a singer of light opera and taught Leslie to sing. When she arrived in America, in order to support her family she took a job as a cleaning lady. In 1920, the family became American citizens.

At the age of 10, he won a Charlie Chaplin imitation contest and in High School learned to tap dance and for a time began to teach classes. He later unsuccessfully pursued a boxing career under the name 'Packy East' until he found out that acts were needed for a Cleveland theatre.

With a partner, George Byrne, they became the 'Two Diamonds in the Rough' and went on tour.

In 1929 he changed his name from Leslie to Bob, as members of the audience repeatedly reversed his name when they took exception to his act, his surname being placed in front of his Christian name, making it 'Hope Les'. He took the name Bob after the racing driver Bob Burman.

In the 1930s he made a number of appearances in Broadway musicals: in 1932 in *Ballyhoo*, and then the following year, *Roberta*, during which show he met his future wife, Dolores Reade. Other shows quickly followed, including *Say When*, *The Zigfield Follies*, *The Sidewalks of New York* and *Smiles*.

He then decided to become a solo performer, forming his own company to play vaudeville theatres. In 1938 he was given his own radio show and as a result was asked by Paramount Studios to appear in the film *The Big Broadcast*. The producers assigned him the song *Thanks for the Memory* which became a major hit, praised by the critics, and went on to become his trademark song which he used at the end of his Forces shows. He altered the lyrics for the specific situations and places he found himself in when entertaining the troops at the front.

A new phase of his career began in 1940, when he set out on the *Road to Singapore*, the first of the seven blockbuster *Road* pictures he was to appear in with Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour.

He featured in many other comedy films, including *Monsieur Beaucaire* and three favourite films *My Favorite Blonde*, *My Favorite Brunette*, and *My Favorite Spy*.

The television show 'Star Spangled Revue' presented in 1950, marked the first of his many appearances on TV. In 1951, he returned to Wales to stay at St Donat's Castle when he took part in the British Amateur Golf Championship. In 1984 he visited Barry to see the house where his parents had lived and was given a civic reception.

In 1997, he was honoured for his work entertaining American troops from the early days of USO, beginning in 1941 at March Field, California and later in the many World War II theatres of operation.

He made 60 appearances in 50 years in war zones, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the war in the Persian Gulf and was named by President Clinton as an 'Honorary Veteran'.

Among his innumerable awards are five special Oscars for humanitarian work. He also created the USO international headquarters,

by TOM CLEMETT

named after him.

Bob Hope had a keen interest in golf and had played with nearly every president of the United States from Eisenhower to Bush.

In 1978 he and Bing Crosby were voted the Bob Jones Award, which is the highest honour given by the United States Golf Association. Both Bob and Bing are members of the World Golf Hall of Fame. Bob celebrated his 100th birthday in May 2003 and passed away two months later on Sunday, July 27 with his family at his bedside.

Robert Tear (Tenor) - Born in Barry in March 1939, educated at Barry County School, later attended King's College, Cambridge and joined St Paul's Cathedral as lay chorister; later becoming a choral scholar at King's College, (where he became an Honorary Fellow).

He later embarked on his career as a soloist with the English Opera Group receiving special praise for his performances in Benjamin Britten's operas.

He worked with eminent conductors such as Leonard Bernstein, Carlo Maria Giulini, Josef Krips and Herbert von Karajan and was a regular guest and sought after by all the major opera houses of Europe and the USA, and from 1970 for important festivals including the Holland, City of London and Edinburgh Festivals.

In 1989 he made his debut with the English National Opera, later appearing with the Glyndebourne Touring Company.

He made over 250 records for major recording companies. In 1992 he was appointed artistic director of the Vocal Faculty of the London Royal Schools of Music and held the Chair of International Singing at the Royal Academy of Music. In 1984 he was awarded the CBE.

He died in 2011.

Anthony Stuart Lloyd (Baritone) who lived in Pencoedre Road, Barry, studied at Guildhall School of Music and Drama and after winning the Sir Geraint Evans Scholarship studied at the Royal Welsh School of Music and Drama. He then went on to win other prestigious awards, including the Blue Riband at the Royal National Eisteddfod, an Arts Council of Wales and the Morriston Orpheus Choir MOCSA Young Singers of Wales Competition Award.

He also won the inaugural Sir Geraint Evans Memorial Prize. The Welsh National Opera company has cast him in many leading roles and he has sung on the continent at the Frieberg Opera.

The West End has seen him as Jacob in Andrew Lloyd Webber's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

He has appeared in numerous BBC and S4C television programmes with the National Chamber Orchestra of Wales, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Orchestra of Wales. He is in constant demand for his one man show 'Broadway Baritones'.

Peter Karrie (Singer and Actor) was born in Bridgend in August 1946 and lived in Pontypridd Road, Barry with his family.

He attended Romilly School was a member of the 5th Barry Scouts and sang in the local church choir. He was the lead singer in the band 'Peter and the Wolves' which was used as a warm-up act for leading acts such as The Rolling Stones and Tom Jones.

He is best known for his portrayal of the lead role in the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical

Phantom of the Opera and has played the part in London, Toronto, Vancouver, Singapore, and Hong Kong and on the UK Tour in Bradford and Manchester. In 1994 and 1995 he was voted the favourite Phantom by members of the Phantom of the Opera Appreciation Society.

He has had his own show on BBC Wales both on television and radio and has starred in many West End musical productions, including *Les Miserables*.

He is a fellow of the Welsh College of Music and Drama. **Derek Brock (Writer)** - Born in Cardiff in 1929, he moved to Barry when he was five. He began working for the GWR at the Barry Sheds in 1942 as an engine cleaner and when on night shift as a call-out boy.

He later became a fireman on local runs, finally being promoted to a main-line fireman.

These experiences he later described in his best selling book *Small Coal and Smoke Rings*. In 1955 he left the railway to become a sales rep. On marrying the daughter of the landlord of the Six Bells, Penmark, he took over the running of the pub - later to write a book about his experiences there entitled *Cuckoo Marans in the Taproom*. Two other notable books were *Glorious Poverty and Welsh Flannel*.

Gwyn Thomas (Writer) - Born in Cwmmer in 1913, he was the 12th child of Walter Morgan and Ziphora Thomas. He was educated at Porth Grammar School where the headmaster was Mr E T Griffiths. In 1931 he won a scholarship to read modern languages at Edmund Hall, Oxford.

In 1933 he went to Spain to study Spanish at the People's University in Madrid. On his return to Wales he became a lecturer for the WEA, marrying his wife Lynn in 1938.

In 1939 he became the area educational officer for the NCSS in Manchester, but returned to Wales the following year to take up a post at Cardigan County School.

In 1942 he took up the offer of his old friend and former headmaster at Porth Grammar School (Mr E T Griffiths), to join the staff at Barry Grammar School and became the teacher of languages there for the next 20 years. He lived for many years at Porthkerry Road, later moving to Lidmore Road.

In 1947, Gwyn's book *The Alone to the Alone* was published by Nicholson and Watson.

In 1950 he began writing the first of six stage plays and features for BBC radio and television. *The Keep* was his first, followed by *Jackie the Jumper*, *The Loot* and many others. Much of his work dealt with working class life in the Valleys, usually told by one of its members.

In 1952 his first successful production by the BBC was *Gazooka* the story of the marching bands of the Rhondda. In 1953 Punch magazine asked him to contribute articles and over the years it published over 120.

Gwyn used his time at the County School and in the various pubs and clubs listening to the conversations and stories told by locals, some of which were used in his talks on the BBC; a great many locals often recognised his characters. In his book *A Welsh Eye - The Way to the Sea*, he describes a Sunday school trip to Barry Island. This was my introduction to his writing and was the first of many books by him that I read.

Over the years, he received praise and criticism for his work, one critic complaining that all his books were Rhondda-based. Gwyn, in reply, stated that the

fact that the Rhondda was their basis was not exaggerated, because that was where he was tethered.

The Rhondda of the 1920s and 1930s, was the time of his boyhood and young manhood.

What he wrote was about the wonderment of those years which, although a fragment of his time, was not about the tragedy of a stricken community but about its fulfilment.

He referred to his writing as bitter-sweet and eccentric and if readers found it repetitive they could always join the queue to read the latest author's bestseller.

Gwyn finished teaching in 1962 to become a full-time writer and broadcaster. Ten years later, some of his early vitality had slipped away and it became an effort to appear at the very many functions, TV and radio talk shows that he was asked to attend.

In April 1981, he was taken to hospital in a weakened condition; his diabetes had worsened, his eyesight was failing and it was only with great difficulty that he was able to walk. A few days later, on April 13 he died.

In September 1942, I joined Gwyn (Killer) Thomas's class and still remember the following years of his trying to teach the Spanish language.

Spain in those days was somewhere far off and I, like many others, thought that we would never need to use the language.

However, on leaving school and starting work in Cardiff Docks, where Spanish was used and heard every day, my schoolboy Spanish came in very handy when I needed to buy salt fish for my father's Sunday breakfast from Jose Almeida's Spanish stores in George Street.)

Professor Dai Smith, BA (Oxon), MA (Columbia), PhD (Wales) - Author and Historian was born in the Rhondda in 1945 and like Gwyn Thomas was educated at Porth County and Barry Grammar Schools.

He read history and literature at Balliol College, Oxford and at Columbia University, New York and the University of Wales, Swansea.

From 1969 to 1993, he taught history at Swansea and Cardiff universities and also at Lancaster University.

In 1986 he was awarded a Personal Chair by the University of Wales.

In 1980 he wrote, in collaboration with Dr Hwyl Francis, a history of the Welsh Miners *The Fed* and in 1986 in collaboration with Professor Gareth Williams *Fields of Praise*.

A keen rugby fan and supporter of Pontypridd RFC, he was the scribe for Neil Jenkins biography *Working Class Hero. Wales - A Question for History* was published in 1998 and in 1993 *Aneurin Bevan and The World of South Wales*.

Over the years, he has written and presented numerous documentary programmes for radio and television.

In 1993, he joined the BBC as Editor of Radio Wales and was Head of Broadcast (English Language) at BBC Wales from 1994 to 2000.

He is a renowned historian and prolific writer on the arts and cultural issues and is well known as a broadcaster on radio and television.

In March 2007 he was appointed as chair of the Arts Council of Wales.

Felicity (14) has eyes on another race trophy!



Photograph by GARETH ROPER

WHILE most people were tucking into leftovers and generally recovering from festive over-indulgence, 14-year-old Felicity Williamson-Sarll of Porthcawl, a member of Bridgend Athletics Club, entered the Lions' Fun Run for the sixth time.

She first took part in 2005, at the tender age of seven, and astounded participants and her family by winning the junior race. On Boxing Day, she must have had that early victory in mind, as she sailed into top position again, winning the under-20 women's race in a time of 34.48.

Although conditions were not too harsh, all participants did have to battle with quite a severe downpour towards the end.

As well as winning her

second Lions trophy, Felicity also won a medal for two at the Hi-Tide, so her running skills are reaping benefits for the whole family!

Felicity trains with Bridgend Athletics Club two or three times a week and competes for the team on a regular basis, invariably in the 800m.

The Porthcawl Comprehensive School pupil has also enjoyed much success during school sports days and won the Victrix Ludorum in the summer of 2011, no mean achievement for a year-8 pupil.

Felicity is currently studying for 11 GCSEs, having already gained an A* and 100 per cent in her German last summer. Needless to say, PE is one of her chosen subjects. Felicity will be competing in the 800m as part of the Bridgend Athletics' team at the Welsh Athletics Senior Indoor Championships on January 26-27.

MP's welcome for broadband boost

VALE MP Alun Cairns has welcomed the announcement this week that the superfast broadband programme for Wales work has now officially started, with the roll-out of the scheme.

The Vale is on track to get the superfast broadband it needs to create jobs and boost growth after the £56 million being made available by the UK Government was approved by the EU.

The cash is specifically to roll out high speed broadband across rural areas.

The project will build on BT's existing investment with the aim being that 96 per cent of Welsh homes and businesses will have access to world class broadband speeds of up to 80Mbps by the end of 2015.

Mr Cairns has been campaigning for better broadband for the Vale over the last two years. The fibre broadband roll-out will start in 14 unitary authorities during 2013/14, including the Vale.

The new fibre broadband will provide a significant uplift in performance, ensuring

Wales has access to broadband speeds of up to 80Mbps, with ultra-fast broadband providing even faster speeds should businesses need it.

As a result, when combined with private sector activity, 96 per cent of premises in Wales will have access to world class broadband speeds.

The Vale MP is meeting senior BT executives in the next week to gain more information on the communities and areas that will be included in the roll-out.

He will be hosting a briefing session in Westminster for all Welsh MPs for BT to outline the project, its scope and timelines.

Mr Cairns said: "This decision is great news for the Vale and for Wales. Britain is in a global race and we cannot allow rural areas in the Vale to get left behind because of bad infrastructure."

"Barry, Llantwit Major and Colwynston now have fibre-optic broadband and I will be pushing to make sure that Cowbridge, Wenvoe and the rural Vale will be included in the areas to benefit from this further investment."

'Make your voices heard'

— CALL TO FORCES

THE Vale Council is urging members of the armed forces based in St Athan and throughout the Vale, to make sure their "voices are heard" at future elections.

"We have many service personnel and their families living in the Vale, but we're concerned that they are not having their say on issues that affect them as local residents," says Becci Light, the council's electoral officer.

"Everyone should be able to have their say at local and general elections. Registering is straightforward and takes just a few minutes. Those who expect to be deployed overseas can still vote in elections if they are registered, so it makes sense to make sure they are registered now."

For a registration form, call the council's contact centre, Contact One Vale, on 01446 700111 or print one off from www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/armedforces

Support Llamau

FOR thousands of people in Wales, homelessness is a frightening reality, but fortunately, Llamau can provide the accommodation, support and advice crucial in times of crisis.

But in such a tough economic climate and with demand for services increasing, it becomes harder and harder to plan for the future.

With this in mind, Llamau has launched their first regular giving programme, encouraging people to show their commitment to supporting Llamau's work by pledging to give a regular gift for the next 12 months.

"Llamau's aim is to support young homeless people and vulnerable women across south

Wales to live stable, independent lives," said chief executive Frances Beecher.

"In such a difficult economic climate, we understand how hard it can be to spare hard-earned cash but now more than ever it is so important to support the most vulnerable and marginalised people in our community."

"With regular donations, we can plan ahead and ensure we can continue to support our young people come rain, shine or snow!"

For more information about Llamau's research and services, or to make a pledge, visit the website: www.llamau.org.uk/friends-of-llamau.

JOIN THE WANDERERS

Barry Wanderers 1st XI.



THE recent weather may suggest we are about to enter a new Ice Age, but this has not deterred the ever-optimistic Barry Wanderers Cricket Club from starting preparations for the 2013 season...

Although matches don't get under way until the start of April, the Sully-based club are keen to steal a march on their rivals by hosting weekly net sessions at the Swalec Stadium in Cardiff.

The Wanderers currently boast four adult sides as well as under-11 and under-9 teams and are looking for new players of all ages and abilities.

This season, the 1st XI will be playing in the top flight of the South Wales Conference, while the 2nd XI will be out to defend their Division 1 title.

The less competitive might prefer the pace of the Sunday friendly XI, where a warm welcome and hearty tea is always assured.

The Wanderers has always

been one of the friendliest cricket clubs in the area, and have a reputation for guaranteeing a game of cricket every week for every player – regardless of ability.

So, whether you see yourself as a budding Alistair Cook or just fancy dusting off your old school bat, the Wanderers would be delighted to have you on board.

For more information regarding the season ahead, please contact Tom Ridgwell on 07973 102199 or email tgridgwell@gm.com

Lions club sponsor new kit for disabled footballers



ABOVE: BRIDGEND LIONS FC

BRIDGEND Disabled FC have just received a new kit thanks to a kind donation from Bridgend Lions Club.

Now that the team has a new kit, they can wear it in the Three Counties League, local friendlies and in their charity game in April against Lashings All Stars at Jenner Park.

Manager Kelly Hall said: "A big thank you to Bridgend Lions Club, this will be great for the team". KH

Cowbridge are thwarted by weather again

ALL games in Division 4 South East were postponed last Saturday as the cold snap took its toll.

Cowbridge have now only managed to fulfil just one of their last four fixtures due to inclement weather – the end of season is already looking congested!

Hopefully, there will be an improvement in the weather this weekend as we travel to Llandaff, looking for a fifth win of the season.

Last week's narrow but vital victory over Taffs Wells takes us to within five points of next placed Llantwit Major and ten points of Llandaff with a game in

hand so things are pretty tight around the middle of the table.

With the Six Nations approaching the next game after Llandaff is at home to Barry on February 16 followed by Wattstown at home on March 2, then Penygraig away on March 23.

A reminder that the club will be open for all the Six Nations matches, so come down and cheer Wales (or whoever you support) on.

Finally, everyone at the club was saddened to learn of the passing on Saturday of Gaynor Powell, wife of club stalwart John and mother of Neil and Kevin. Our thoughts and condolences are with John and the family.

RV/RK

Sully Sports RFC round-up

WITH last Saturday being a 'whiteout,' the pool fixtures were not played, and with the weather looking grim for the rest of this week, the prospects of being able to play games does not look too promising.

As last week, and for the next six weeks, there are no scheduled league, or cup fixtures for either the first or second teams, so efforts are being made to find pool games.

Players/supporters need to contact the club, or P Mees, on Friday.

The Six Nations commences the following weekend, and clubs cannot play, adding to the frustrations of players who just want time on the pitch.

Players/members attending Jason Newlands' mum's funeral next Tuesday will need to contact P Mees/Cummings for details or the arrangements.

MJS

Schools set out to break record for deaf charity

LOCAL schools aiming to help set a world record for the most people singing simultaneously, are being asked to film their rehearsals.

Teachers and pupils participating in SignHealth's sign2sing event on February 6, can share videos of their rehearsals on the charity's social media pages in the run-up to the day.

Steve Powell, chief executive of the national healthcare charity for deaf people, said: "So far, more than 1,000 schools, including Corneli Primary School in North Corneli, have registered for sign2sing."

"We understand many of them are already busy practising for the event and we thought it would be fun for teachers and pupils to share videos of their progress via Twitter and Facebook. Videos can be uploaded to www.twitter.com/sign2sing and www.facebook.com/sign2sing in the run up to sign2sing. We look forward to seeing how

schools are getting on."

Last year, 114,277 children took part in SignHealth's sign2sing 2012 event and smashed the world record. The previous record, which was also set by SignHealth, was 94,489.

On February 6 at 2.45pm, young people from all over the country and overseas will sign a song, entitled 'sign2sing', which has been composed especially for the event.

Steve continued: "We would also like to remind schools that they will need to film or photograph their performances on sign2sing day and this can be done using a camera or a mobile phone."

"The videos and photos will be sent to Guinness World Records® along with the paperwork, so it can confirm whether we have broken the record."

Schools wishing to take part are invited to register via www.sign2sing.org.uk as soon as possible, or contact SignHealth on 01494 687600.

Mitsubishi Outlander is a real winter warmer

WINTER has arrived, there's a good smattering of frost and ice in the early morning and it seems to get much darker much earlier; this is the time of year when 4x4s really come into their own.

So no better time then to be testing the second generation Mitsubishi Outlander – the third generation was launched in March 2012. Externally, I actually prefer the earlier model, if for no other reason than the chrome edging around the grille, which has been removed on the latest version.

It's not the most attractive off-roader on the market but its distinctive design is certainly memorable. There's a good high-up driving position and it will easily transport seven adults in comfort across three rows of seats (third row in the large boot as you can see in the video at testdrives.biz) over all manner of terrain with-

MOTORING WITH TIM SAUNDERS



Mitsubishi Outlander.

out a complaint.

Inside, the dashboard seems a little stark and minimal, which is actually quite refreshing in this day and age when manufacturers seem to include as many buttons as they possibly can.

Even so, equipment levels are high and the heated front seats are greatly appreciated by both my wife and I during the severe cold spell when the test takes place.

There's hardwearing leather upholstery and the front seats are electrically adjustable, too.

The six-speed automatic gearbox is generally easy to use, although I must confess that when I first parked

up I could not work out why the key would not come out of the ignition.

After five minutes of head scratching, I finally realised that the Mitsubishi required me to place the gearbox in park mode. I had left it in drive.

If drivers prefer the fun of a manual box, the auto unit can be used like this, or there's the addition of paddle shifts either side of the steering wheel, for a similar experience.

This helps get the most from the engine and helps combat the delay experienced when setting off in automatic mode.

Parkers, the car experts, say: "The sec-

ond-generation Mitsubishi Outlander is the best car the Japanese company has produced in years. Nearly all models come with seven seats, making it a good choice for larger families, while the interior is well built and durable.

"The extra seats are also very cramped and offer little comfort. The Mitsubishi Outlander is one of the better compact SUVs to drive, even though it also offers more than a modicum of off-road ability.

"It has responsive handling and accurate steering, and it keeps the body under control when cornering."

The Outlander is just the ticket for a family that demands more than just a runabout.

Mitsubishi Outlander 2.2 DI-D GX3 (Leather) 5d SST; new price range: £21,643 - £31,544; engine: 2.2-litre diesel; economy: 39mpg; power: 153bhp; 0-60mph: 10.7secs; top speed: 123mph; fuel tank: 60 litres; distance on a tank: 430 miles

Watch the video at www.testdrives.biz

Football coaching group launches Gambia project

PG10 Coaching have started 2013 in fine fashion by launching a academy in Gambia for children and young people of all ages and abilities.

The purpose of the academy is for children to learn new football skills and techniques, to be given opportunities to be educated, but also for coaches and young people from Wales to have a chance to coach in Africa to help develop football and communities in the country.

PG10 Coaching have linked in with the Gambian Football Association and provide football kits, football boots, first aid and playing equipment as well as coach education and first aid training for the wider community, which enables hundreds of children and young people to play football and develop.

The academy is based in the village of Farato and Sukuta Junction in the west region of the country.

The academy boasts over 10 teams from under-9 to under-16, a youth team, and also a senior team, ensuring a clear pathway to develop and also for talented players to be seen by European clubs.

All the teams are coached weekly by qualified coaches and play matches on weekends

For more information on the PG10 Academy in Gambia or if you would like to donate any old football kits or boots please visit www.pg10coaching.co.uk or email info@pg10coaching.co.uk or phone 07955270870.

PG10 Coaching have launched a new scheme called 'Tiny Tots' to encourage children aged four to seven years old to play in football, with an opportunity to learn new football skills and techniques in safe environment.

The first centre opens in Ely, Cardiff, in partnership with Ely Garden Villagers, on Sunday, January 27.

Sessions run every Sunday with a key aim to create new junior teams for children and promote volunteering and sport coach education.

All players will be given opportunities to play in fun football festivals and an opportunity to have official PG10 playing kit. To book a space on the course please contact 07955270870, email info@pg10coaching.co.uk or visit www.pg10coaching.co.uk.

CM



Tessa drives off in Cottrell Park frost



Tessa and vice-captain Jan Cosby with Helen Evans, competition winner, and Andrea Caines.

ON Thursday, January 17, Cottrell Park ladies braved the cold frosty morning to support their new ladies' captain Tessa Matthews at her drive in.

They were well rewarded with an excellent drive. Helen Poole won the prize for nearest flag to where the ball landed.

Following this, 18 hardy ladies played a 9 hole Stableford competition while the remainder of the ladies kept warm in the clubhouse or did some retail therapy until lunchtime.

The competition was won by Helen Evans with Andrea Caines second, while 60 ladies enjoyed a good lunch, following which Tessa, thanked the ladies for their support and presented the prizes to the winners.

CB



ABOVE: Tessa Matthews, the new ladies' captain, driving off

St Athan lady golfers opt for indoor entertainment

THE wet weather did not dampen the high spirits of the RAF St Athan Golf Club ladies when they assembled at the club on January 14 to welcome their new ladies captain, Ros Martin-Jones.

The course was barely playable, but the club captain, Hugh Williams tried his best to encourage the ladies to venture out and play their traditional nine hole competition, declaring "the course is all yours!"

Using her newly appointed authority Ros (politely) declined the offer, deciding that the ladies would much rather stay in the warmth of the clubhouse and consume the mulled



Past, present and future ladies captains!

wine that Liz Thomas had generously prepared. Club caterer Leanne ensured that everybody was well fed by providing plenty of soup and hot bread rolls. Certain formalities

associated with the ladies captain's drive-in still had to be carried out, namely the actual first drive by Ros, closely followed by a drive from her vice-captain, Jenny Young.

There was no argument from the ladies when Ros opted to take her drive from the 6th tee, announcing "It's the hole closest to the clubhouse, let's get the drive away and get back indoors!"

Back in the warm, the outgoing ladies captain, Rita Craig performed the last of her duties, congratulating Ros, wishing her a good year 'at the helm' and presenting her with the ladies captain's badge.

Rita was overcome with emotion when the ladies presented her with a beautiful hardback book comprising photos of memorable events from her year in office.

The members who were gathered in the

clubhouse were not entirely surprised when Ros informed them that her chosen charity for the year would be 'The Wales Air Ambulance' – perhaps the t-shirts and posters were a very strong indication!

The club captain, Hugh (looking resplendent in his new jacket) amused the ladies with some golfing jokes before handing over a selection of flowers and plants to a smiling Ros.

Both captains aim to work closely together throughout 2013; their aim is to see the club prosper while at the same time maintaining the friendliness of its members, one of the reasons the club is so popular.

If you are interested in joining RAF St Athan Golf Club, as a playing or social member, please contact the club manager on 01446 751043.

CM

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GEM sport

Llantwit Major archers clean up at Welsh indoor championships



L L A N T W I T
MAJOR Archery Club enjoyed one of its most successful ever results at the **Welsh Open Indoor Championships**, which was held at Glynorhondla Centre, Rhondda on **January 13.**

With a team of 26 archers from the local club, expectations were high for a good medal count but the club exceeded all expectations returning a record 13 gold medals, 4 silvers and 3 bronzes.

Up-and-coming junior internationals, Chris Gray and Imogen Kent, set the pace with some impressive performances in the unlimited category, both taking gold, the former setting a new Welsh record in the process.

Buoyed by this success, Chris then shot the afternoon session in the seniors division where he took the bronze, making him the first Welsh archer ever to medal at two different age categories at the same tournament.

Meanwhile, Jon Norman made an impressive comeback in the Gents Unlimited division, finishing 7th on his first international tournament for almost 20 years.

The recurve division also yielded a host of silverware with Calum Young and Sarah Smith making a clean sweep of the junior group while Elis Marriott took gold in the cub division.

The adults also pre-

sented well with veteran international Mat Symmonds taking gold, closely followed by Richard Doore. Club chairman Nathan Trew also performed well, taking joint 3rd place along with Scottish international, Willie Marr.

The club also featured heavily in the unsighted tournament where Mike Mattingley, Paul Watson and Bob Marriott cleaned up in the gents recurve group.

It was a similar story in the ladies group where Teresa Goodwin and Helen Langford impressed on their international debuts, taking silver and bronze respectively.

Another returning veteran, Rod Umney, proved he still has what it takes, taking the Welsh title in the compound unsighted group whilst Owain Langford and Ieuan Graham also took gold in the junior and cub divisions.

Not to be outdone, the longbow archers also dominated the field with sisters Elise and Kathryn Mattingley both taking gold in the junior and cub groups whilst parents Sally and Mike took silver and bronze respectively in the adult divisions to complete one of the most successful tournaments in the club's history.

The club will next be in action on April 21 when they host the first leg of the five-stage Welsh Field Masters Tour at Fonmon Estate.

SR

CHESS TEAMS HAVE ACTION-PACKED WEEK

THIS has been another action-packed week for the Barry Chess Club with teams competing in three different competitions.

The week started in difficult weather conditions with ten intrepid players making the arduous trip to Caerphilly led by 'Sherpa' Lewis to play matches in both the first and third divisions of the East Glamorgan Chess League.

The Camelots ran out easy winners in their match, winning three games and drawing the other two. This returned them to the top of division two and their position was later strengthened when two of their closest rivals, Bridgend A and Cardiff AJ's both surprisingly lost their games. The Camelots have a one point advantage and also have a game in hand.

In division three the

Gambits did not fare so well. They were up against the Caerphilly Rooks and on paper were evenly matched. The Gambits fell to a three and a half to one and a half defeat with only Dave Adamson earning a win to give some respectability to the scoreline.

This leaves the Gambits still in a relegation spot and they will need to win at least four of their remaining seven matches to have any hope of retaining their third division status.

Then we sent a team of four players to take on Newport in the Welsh knock out Cup open section. The Newport team included Peter Varley, the ninth highest ranked player in Wales, so we knew we would be in for a tough fight.

Peter took victory on board one for Newport and Lee Davis evened the score for Barry on board two. Rhys Steele

had an interesting game having three passed pawns to his opponents' one.

In this case one was to prove more valuable than three and Rhys somehow managed to lose the game. The cup result was therefore in the balance with the final match to be in effect the decider.

Craig Woolcock was in difficulty in this match. Neither player noticed that Craig had been 'in check' for a number of moves so the position had to be reset.

Both players were struggling against the clock with the Newport player having much the better of the position until his flag fell - Craig only had nineteen seconds left on his clock as well. This meant the match had finished level, but Barry go through into the next round by virtue of bottom board elimination.

Finally the fourth round of the Barry Club Championship took place yesterday. For a variety of different reasons only ten players were able to take part in this round.

Three of the games were won as anticipated by the higher graded players but in two instances their were good draws earned by Rhys Steele and Phil Jones against Lee Davis and Ken Hannah. The tournament is wide open with another three rounds to go.

For more details visit our website: barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

Barry Chess Club meets each Monday at the West End Club with matches starting at 7:30pm; new players of all ages and standards are welcomed.

SHE'S off again! Wales's leading adventurer **Maria Leijerstam** is off to **Patagonia** in **South America** on **February 4** to put herself through **700km** of running, cycling and kayaking in some of the harshest and remotest conditions in the world.

"We're going to be crossing glaciers, paddling 100 miles through the Strait of Magellan and beating our way through the dense forests of Patagonia" said Maria.

This is an unexpected trip for Maria who was contacted only a few days ago to see if she would fill the female spot for the Berghaus-sponsored team in the Patagonian Expedition Race, otherwise known as the Last Wild Race.

"I've watched the race for the last three years and always thought I'd like to take part. I'm fit and definitely ready

for another adventure. It couldn't have come at a better time but I'm nervous because I've never met my team mates before. Since the race is so remote we have to look after and trust each other."

Maria's record breaking solo crossing by bike of the frozen Lake Baikal in Eastern Siberia last March has set her up for racing in colder climates and she will once again be riding her favourite Qoroz titanium bike.

"The conditions in Patagonia are very extreme and changeable so I need to prepare myself for a 30 degree temperature range."

"This makes deciding what to wear and take so difficult," said Maria.

Since the snow has been falling Maria has been out running and cycling with heavy loads as she has to carry everything with her for the 10 day race. "I also need to put on half a stone in weight so I have plenty of reserves."

AL

Bridgend bridge results

THE latest result for Bridgend Bridge Club on Wednesday, January 16:

First equal Linda Pincock & Dennis Mottram and Liam Sheridan & Mike Best; third Jane Brook and Wendy Williams. There was no play on January 18 due to the snow.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at 7pm at Noltan Church Hall to which all Bridge players are welcome.

There are lessons for people wishing to learn with Graham Jones on Fridays at 7pm and a new series of lessons starts this Friday, January 25, at 7pm; to register an interest please contact one of Graham Jones on 01446 775952, Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

On Thursdays in January, also at Noltan Church Hall, at 2pm, there are friendly sessions for inexperienced players of bridge where help and guidance is on hand. For further details and to register an interest please contact either Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

PJ

Evans' double

LLANCASFAN'S Evan Williams, who is the leading trainer at Ffos Las Racecourse, brought his total of wins at the west Wales track to 42 when landing a double with *One In A Million* and *Tin Pot Man*.

The former, who was the 7-2 outsider of three, won by two and three quarter lengths from champion jockey A P McCoy's mount *Anaki*.

Winning rider stable jockey Paul Moloney said: "He surprised me as he actually refused in two point-to-points, so we were a bit worried but I've schooled him at home a few times and I really liked him."

Tin Pot Man, who was burdened with top weight of 11st 12lb, and who was also ridden by Moloney, got home by half-a-length from *Michigan's D'Isop* and Williams said: "He had a hell of a fall last time over hurdles and took a long time to get up. He's only small but he's a genuine little horse and he just ground it out. I never thought he would go on that ground, but he kept plugging away."

A P McCoy, who also rode two winners, described the ground as 'horrific'.

BRIAN LEE

Cowbridge darts round-up

ON January 15, in a week set aside for make up games, there were two league matches.

At the Hare and Hounds, Aberthyn, in a closely contested match Llanharry came out victors 6-3, thus reducing the lead of Edmond's 'B' at the top of the table to 4 points.

In the other match, the Carne Arms lost 3-6 to the White Lion.

League standings, after all teams have completed eight matches: Edmond's 'B' (53 points), Llanharry (49), Edmond's 'A' (43), Hare and Hounds (39), Farmers Arms (35), Carne Arms & White Lion (33), Cross Inn (30), Old Post Ladies (25) and Highwayman

Inn (20).

On January 29, the league programme continues when the Old Post Ladies host Llanharry, Farmers Arms host the Hare & Hounds, White Lion host the Carne Arms, Edmond's 'B' host the Cross Inn and the Highwayman Inn host the Edmond's 'A'.

All matches start at 8.30pm and spectators are always welcome.

For further information and any enquiries please e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@googlemail.com; up-to-date information on upcoming matches, league results and league table can be found on the website: www.darts.apns.co.uk.

PT

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